Illustrated Midland News.

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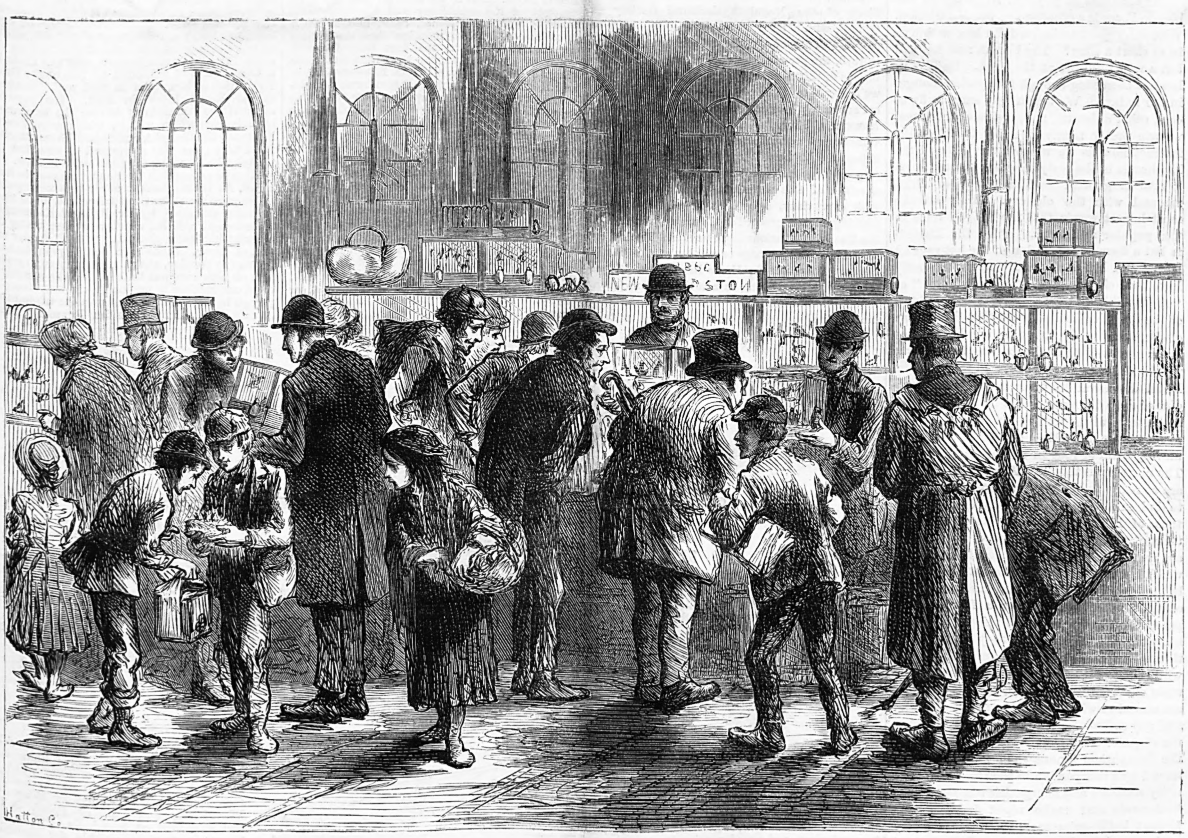
PETS.

We cannot escape from our relationship with the living things around us. To horses we may be indifferent, cats may be our favourite aversion, dogs an abomination, caged singing birds a nuisance; but there will be some animal, reptile, fish, or insect whose affinity we shall be compelled to acknowledge. Some animated being will find us out, have faith in us, and creep into our hearts. If the kindest, the most generous, the gentlest of men and women have loved to choose pets from the varieties of the inferior creation, so have human beings of the worst type: the cruel, the malignant, the criminal. Culture does not affect our love of animals; education does not make or mar it; neither refinement nor the want of it, neither habit nor social position has any influence upon our natural sympathies in the direction of this or that form of animal life. There are men, and women too, born with an affection for the horse. The man may be a gipsy or an earl, the woman may be of royal or of Bohemian blood, but the penchant will be exactly the same, and will assert itself from the morning till the evening of their days. There are feminine riders in the circus for no other reason than that; there are high-born habituées of the side-saddle who are elsewhere never in their element; there are gentlemen sportsmen, and cab-drivers, and jockeys, whose daily life, from youth to age, has been marked out for them by the resistless equine attraction. Some among us will devote more care and thought to the dog, the cat, the blackbird, the ferret, or even the hedgehog, than to any human being. It is our fate in the world, in one form or another, in a greater or a less degree, to be convicted of kinship with the animal creation, and the study of this universal bias of the human affections is one of the most interesting and amusing within the range of ordinary observation.

The phenomena may be watched under favourable circumstances, any day in the week, and particularly on Thursdays and Saturdays, in the great Market Hall at Birmingham. One very prominent phase is presented in the picture by our artist given on this page. He has chosen the moment when "low life" has gathered round the bird cages and the rabbit hutches. The men and boys in this engraving are of the "bargaining" class; but it is easy to see that a feeling stronger than that which enters into the practice of buying and selling animates the groups. They take a deep interest in these little creatures. They know their habits, their age, the necessities of their feeding, and the conditions under which they will live or die. Rough-handed, coarse-natured men, who treat their own children with oaths for schooling, and who would regard any form of domestic tenderness as a weakness, will rear a nest of young birds almost from the hour of the bursting of the eggs, and the little creatures will grow up hardly missing the maternal tutelage. It has been often asserted that there is something softening and humanizing in the love of animals. Let us hope there is. It must be a green corner of the rough heart where these helpless things find guardianship. In a few seemingly careless lines the sketcher of the picture of the Market Hall "bird-corner" has reproduced the absorbing and peculiar interest excited by these little creatures in the minds of buyers, and sellers, and spectators. Those are genuine ornithologists, the like of whom it is the dream of philanthropists some day to convert into class students in their favourite pursuit. But this is only one aspect of the rearing, the selling, and the buying of pets which may be



BIRMINGHAM MARKET HALL: THE PET STALLS.

ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS
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NEWSPAPE

witnessed in the Market Hall. In the course of market day groups of many orders linger round the pens and cages, and it is pretty to mark the ceaseless attraction which pets of every kind exercise upon young children. This is the spectacle of spectacles in Birmingham to the juvenile wanderer and the youthful visitor. We know no pet show equal to that in our Market Hall. The stock is very extensive, the variety is great, and the supply unceasing. The display has some advantages over a set exhibition. It is a relief to know that a specimen of each variety has not been picked out and presented as an example. Favourite sorts are numerous, and do not come by selection. Here, in one little corner, are a hundred young ducks, in a state of alarming activity, greedy and gasping, fancying or desperately hoping that every movement in the busy panorama around them is a movement to put food into their bills; and here close by are canaries enough for a colony. Nearly half the circuit of the capacious building is stocked with supplies of the animal creation. Beginning the survey at the north-west corner of the interior, and working round towards the south-east, one may see every variety of the English singing bird of every age; fine peacocks and pea-hens; parrots and cockatoos of all sizes, colours, and degrees; gold and silver fishes of many descriptions; lizards, frogs, and other reptiles wherewith to add liveliness and incident to the aquarium; poultry of all sorts, from the Cochin China to the bantam; pigeons and doves; young dogs, shivering with youthful nervousness; rabbits, infantile and old, innumerable, of every grade of ear, from the short and stiff to the long half-falling and the perfect lop; guinea-pigs fraternizing with rabbit broods; geese, goslings, weasels, ferrets, hedge-hogs, ravens, crows, owls, turtles. And if there is a species of pet you do not find in the Market Hall, you shall not fail to discover the "fancier" with enterprise enough to get you the animal to order. The love of domestic creatures must be strong in the neighbourhood of Birmingham, by the evidences of the inexhaustible stock to be seen at all times in this Market. No visitor to the capital of the Midlands should miss the sight.

HAVOC!

The elements of physical strife are in the blood. Peace is a philosophy; war is a passion. Who can expect to find a difference within us in so short a time? The human race has had but a very brief life on the earth. Its history has not been long enough for specific changes in our nature. We began very early to fly at each other's throats, and, civilised or savage, we are pretty nearly as ready to act on the instinct now as we were on the banks of the Euphrates in the early chapters of our story. "Vive la guerre!" The streets of Paris resound with the old cry. They are the most honest words that have given voice to the popular sentiment. "To the Rhine" is but a form of expression of the hot rage let loose; "A bas la Prusse" might as easily have been changed into "A bas la Russe" or "A bas l'Angleterre." When the students of the Quartier Latin cry out that the soldiers of Jena are ready to go to the Rhine they know very well that the battle of Jena was fought sixty-four years ago, and that if at the Hôtel des Invalides there is yet living a soldier of Jena the poor fellow is absolutely in his dotage, with just light enough in his soul to remember the bridge, but incapable now of moving hand or foot in aid of its recapture. The meaning is that the Frenchmen of 1870 are as ready to be thrown against a foe, and to do him all the mischief they can, as were those of 1806. When French students work themselves into a fine enthusiasm about Jena, are they thinking of the merits of the quarrel which led to the battle on the bridge? No, but only of French glory and the discomfiture of their antagonists. After a few years of peace the alarum of war awakens in men a hunger for battle, of which they did not know themselves capable. We stand behind the white cliffs of Albion and wonder, and cry fie upon our hot-blooded, eager neighbours, who are moved so wildly at the first hint of strife, and pay so little heed to the right or wrong of the dispute. We cannot lay the blame upon the thoughtless ignorance of men and boys, moved by a new passion in the streets; for the noisy students and bourgeoisie who parade the boulevards and make night hideous with blatant battle-cries are in the same galley with experienced statesmen and disciplined diplomatists; they are perfectly one in temper and spirit with the Duc de GRAMONT, M. DE LAVALETTE, and M. BENEDETTI. Not one of these three men can restrain his excitement, and each of them, if he were not ambassador or statesman, would help to raise a war shout round the EMPEROR'S carriage on his way from St. Cloud to the Tuileries. But while we stand by and deprecate the unreasoning Gallic fervour let us remember our own history. We are not so very different from our neighbours when the fever catches us. A few years ago we were at war. Turkey is a long way off, the quarrel was a difficult one to understand, the *casus belli* needed a vast amount of diplomatic explanation, more than half a continent separated us from our Russian foes, and yet we grew very hot and rampant, and we cast aside on the moment a good many theories of peace and fraternity which we had been pleasantly weaving for many years. Those among us who rebuked us then, and sought to stem the torrent of a feeling that had long been unmoved within us, lost influence; our politics were recast, our parties revolutionised. When the war-spirit is awakened, there is only to give and parry blows and to win a victory; the merits of the controversy are as nothing to the combatants. Therefore in the Franco-Prussian War now beginning, wherein, for aught we know, England may have to play a part, our own conduct will not be guided by a judicial consideration of the right and wrong of the points in dispute between NAPOLEON and KING WILLIAM. We shall consider our own interests and our own obligations only, and while we are of opinion at the very outset that the French nation is not justified in this war, and that Prussia is ill-used, it is most likely that, if we fight at all, we shall find ourselves ranged on the side of France; and whether we fight or not we shall soon find our sympathies in relation to the conflict swayed to and fro by considerations arising out of the events of the stuggle, and we shall forget, until the contest is over and the excitement has subsided, the opinion we entertain at this moment of the conduct of the respective combatants anterior to the declaration of war.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OXFORD.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

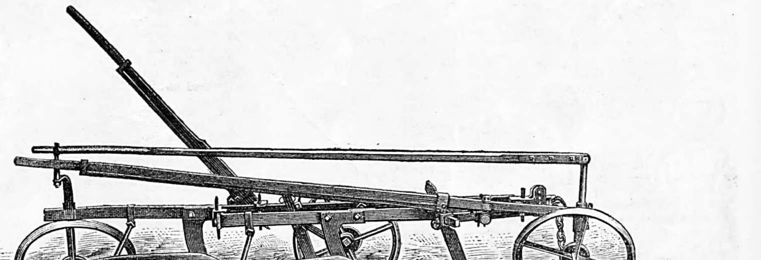
We began last week our account of the great Show of the Royal Agricultural Society at Oxford, with a brief comparison of the state of agriculture and of agricultural science in 1839 and in 1870, the years of the earliest and latest exhibitions of this Society, both held at Oxford; and we followed up that introduction with an historical account, pictorially illustrated, of the firm of Ransomes, Sims, and Head, the celebrated inventors and manufacturers of agricultural machines and implements, expressing our intention of proceeding from week to week, through several numbers of this paper, to present our readers with engravings, as well as descriptive matter, forming a lasting record of the leading features of the Show in its various departments. To-day, on page 56, appears a large engraving of the Cattle Rings. These and the Horse Rings, of which we shall present a sketch in a succeeding number, have been the centres of a vast degree of interest during the past week. Every day, at certain hours, the horses and the cattle are led into these rings and walked round for exercise and display; but on Monday the scenes within those circles were more attractive to many visitors than on anyother day, for then the animals were walked round not merely to to be seen but to be compared and scrutinised by the judges, and round outside the ropes stood the exhibitors and their friends, watching anxiously every turn and incident that might lead to an inference as to the opinion of the judges upon the respective and relative qualities of the competitors. Now would three fine bulls be brought to the front, and after five or ten minutes' deliberation the one deemed the worst would be sent aside, and one or two more would be added, and so the process would go on until out of a large class only three or four of the best would remain. From these would one have to be selected for the first prize, another for the second, and sometimes one for the third. It is the usual practice of special reporters at these shows, engaged by newspapers on account of their knowledge of the points and qualities of animals, to take their place outside the ring during the judging, and to make careful notes of the appearance of each under inspection. The movements through which the bull or horse is put by order of the judges, its pose, its action, its weak points, and its particular excellences are thus noted by the experienced eye of the reporter at the same moment in which they are marked by the judges, and the account is rendered interesting by reference to the apparent satisfaction or dissatisfaction of the judges, and by a narrative of the length of the ordeal through which each competitor passes, and of the chances, narrow or broad, by which the prize is lost or won. The judges began their work in the Cattle Show at seven o'clock on Monday morning, and the prize list was complete by about four in the afternoon.

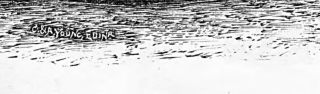
We must go back, however, for a few days, and give a brief general history of the proceedings of these two weeks, before we resume our special notices of particular exhibits. As we have said, this is the thirty second of the Society's Country Meetings, of which the first was held at Oxford. At the end of 1839, the society had 900 members; at the end of 1869, it had 5,597. Earl Spencer, regarded as the founder of the association, was its first president; the Duke of Devonshire is the president whose term of office expires at the conclusion of this meeting. Then the prizes amounted to only £750, now the total sum offered is nearly £4,000. Then the number of entries of stock was 350, against 1,377 in 1870; the number of implements in 1839 was 23, while on the present show ground there are 406 stands, comprising 7,851 articles. The judges of implements began their work on the morning of Monday, July 11, one week before the cattle entered the ground. They consisted of the following gentlemen. *Of Fixed Steam Engines, Horse Gears, and Steaming Apparatus*:—Mr. F. J. Bramwell, C.E., Mr. E. A. Cowper, C.E. *Mills, Crushers and Coprolite Mills*:—Mr. H. B. Caldwell, Mr. H. Stephenson, Mr. John Ogilvey. *Chaff Cutters, Oilcake Breakers, Turnip Cutters, and Guano Breakers*:—Mr. John Hemsley, Mr. Matthew Savidge, Mr. Henry Cantrell. *Bone Mills, Flax-breaking Machine, and Tile Machinery*:—Mr. John Thompson, Mr. J. W. Kimber, Mr. G. M. Hipwell. *Dairy Implements*:—Mr. J. K. Fowler, Mr. George Jackson, Mr. Gilbert Murray. *Draining Tools and Miscellaneous Award*:—Mr. F. Sherborn, Mr. John Hicken, Mr. John Wheatley. The trials of implements and machinery lasted all the week, and were not concluded on Saturday, but were continued into the first two or three days of this week. In order to save repetition we do not give here the long award of prizes, either in the cattle or implement departments, as we shall have occasion to mention many of the honours in our special references to particular competitors and exhibits. But as we have already given an account of the machinery and the implement stand of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head, it is necessary here to mention that the judges awarded to that firm the first prize for corn crushers, and in referring to that award an explanation is necessary. Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head had determined not to offer any implements or machines in competition for prizes this year, and their names would not therefore have appeared in the prize list but for an exceptional circumstance. By a rule of the Society the judges have power to make trial of any implement upon the ground, but they usually confine their attentions to those entered for competition. In the case of the crushers, they were not quite satisfied, in some respects, with those entered for trial, and they insisted upon putting the "patent universal mill," exhibited by this firm, to the test, the result being that to that machine the first prize was given. This is a mill invented, improved, and manufactured by Messrs. Ransomes, Sims, and Head, for cutting beans, peas, and maize, and crushing oats, linseed, malt, or barley. The second prize for crushers was awarded to Mr. E. H. Bentall, and the third to Messrs. Woods, Cooksedge, and Warner, while the mill shown by Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner was highly commended. Turning again to the Cattle Show, we may report of it in general terms as a very large and fine exhibition in every department except that of horses. Here the Oxford Show was very mach outdone by that at Manchester last year, and though there were fine horses on the ground these classes generally were not equal to those of several former years. There were only 203 horses, while at Manchester there were 384. The number of entries in other departments were—cattle, 435; sheep, 548; swine, 191. There were 100 more head of cattle than at Manchester, 87 more sheep, and 58 more pigs. The Shorthorn, Hereford, and Devon breeds of cattle were splendidly represented. The swine were a remarkably good lot in nearly every class. The Judges were as follows:—HORSES.—M. Biddell, Robert Calder, J. Smith. A. Turnbull, J. C. Woolhouse.—CATTLE.—*Shorthorns*: H. Aylmer, W. Bowstead, C. Howard, S. Rich, Worcester, J. R. Singleton, M. Stephenson. *Herefords*: G. Morgan, S. W. Urwick, H. Yeomans. *Devons*: J. Overman, T. Pope, R. B. Warren. *Channel Islands*: C. P. La Cornu, G. Morgan. — SHEEP.—*Leicesters*: C. Clarke, S. Jefferson. *Cotswolds*: J. G. Attwater, T. Porter, E. Ruck. *Lincoln and Ryland and other Long Woolled*: W. Bartholomew, J. H. Casswell, H. Mackinder. *Oxfordshire Downs*: A. Edmonds, H. Overman, Z. W. Stilgoe. *South Downs*: T. Cooper, H. Fookes, H. Lugar, *Shropshires*: B. Bond, W. Kemp Bourne, R. H. Masfen. *Hampshire and other Short Woolled and Dorset*: W. B. Canning, J. R. Newton, H. Thurnall. *Inspectors of Shearing*: H. Bone, R. Brown, W. Jobson.—PIGS.—J. Fisher, J. Smith, J. S. Turner.

We shall have other opportunities of noticing particularly attractive animals and prize winners.

The show of machinery and implements was the greatest ever held, and one of the most interesting. We are preparing illustrations of the stands, the works, and the exhibits of many leading firms. Among our earliest will be the highly attractive stand of machinery in motion of Messrs. Allen Ransome and Co., King's Road, Chelsea, round which visitors have gathered in crowds every day this week. Others will include engravings of Messrs. Picksley and Sims's combined mower and reaper, Messrs. E. R. and F. Turner's mills, Mr. Josiah Le Butt's new patent watering-can, and his self-acting garden seed-drill, Messrs. Fellowes and Bates's new lawn mower, &c.

We drew attention last week to the recent introduction of the double-furrow plough. This week we have a further opportunity of illustrating this rather remarkable invention. Since the application of steam power to ploughing, and the consequent adoption of an implement capable of cutting many furrows at once, many efforts have been made to adapt the same principle, in a different degree, to the use of horse power, and the consequence is that there is at this moment a pretty strong competition among manufacturers in the production of the best and most efficient form of the double-furrow horse-plough. The principle is not exactly a novelty, for several of the leading firms have been making double-furrow ploughs for many years, but for the most part these implements have been little more, in fact, than a couple of ploughs fixed together and used in the way in which an ordinary swing or wheel plan is used. That contrivance was found to be very serviceable on light land, but heavy in draught on a stiff soil, and in all cases somewhat unmanageable in turning the ends. The first great improvement was made by a Canadian, and exhibited by him at the Great Exhibition at Brompton in 1862, and afterwards at the Royal Show in 1863. The inventor adopted the principle of having the implement entirely carried on wheels, which considerably lightened the draught, and he had levers attached for lifting; he also attempted to combine the plough with a sowing machine and a harrow. In seeking to accomplish too much he seems to have failed, for the implement never became popular. Subsequently a patent was taken out, much upon the same principle, by Mr. Pirie, of Kinminsdy, Aberdeenshire, N.B., which was taken up by the enterprising steam ploughing firm of Fowler and Co., of Leeds. Since then double ploughs have become so popular, that almost every engineering firm of note have put their skill to the stretch to excel one another in producing the best stamp of plough in the double and even in the triple form. Among these we may mention Ransomes, Sims, and Head; Howard, Wolf, Gray, Perkin, and many others at the Royal Show this year, most of whom have some point or part patented. Among these the double-furrow plough brought out by Messrs. G. W. Murray aud Co., of Banff, N.B., and exhibited at Stand No. 212 in this Show, is specially notable for strength, simplicity of construction, and general usefulness; and this is the only one of the many on the ground that has re-


C. & A. YOUNG, EDINR.



ceived any notice from the judges. As this is not the year for trying ploughs, no prizes are given, but the merits of this plough induced the judges to award it their highest commendation. This plough is also convertible into a combined plough and subsoiler. The first example of this implement made in the combined form Messrs. Murray and Co. had the honour of supplying to her Majesty, for use on the Royal Farm at Windsor. So much interest is attached to the production of a really efficient and successful double-furrow plough, that we are glad to have been permitted by Messrs. Murray and Co. to present illustrations of it in this report. The subjoined pictures will show its exact construction and working.

The first figure shows the implement as a double furrow plough. This firm took the only gold medal, and the highest honour ever offered to double furrow ploughs, at the great match near Newcastle open to the United Kingdom, and competed in by Gray of Uddington, Pirie, Fowler, and Co., and many others of the leading firms. The second figure shows the same plough as a subsoiler. In this form the front plough is removed, and the subsoiler tine is put in its place and can be set to stir up the bottom of the previously ploughed furrow from four to eight inches deep, the second plough covering it up at once. Thus all treading upon the loosened subsoil is avoided, leaving the undertilth loose, and open to sink the surface-water and allow the frost and air to act as pulverisers. We have seen a report of a trial made with this implement in a case where the subsoil was hard and tough: the hard earth was split up in fragments like broken bricks after the subsoiler had passed through it. The implement, therefore, has many of the advantages of the steam plough, for it breaks up to a depth of from twelve to sixteen inches, and still leaves the rich soil upon the top. It is now admitted by all the leading agriculturists that the "pan" under the soil must be broken up; for it gets into such a hard, close, and compact mass under the horses' feet and the weight of the plough, that neither can the roots of the plants get down nor the surface water sink; while in wet weather, if the pan is broken, the surface water will sink, keep the land dry on the surface, and return and feed the plant in extreme drought. We have heard from several quarters of the beneficial effects of using this combined implement during the last dry season. Having thus far described and illustrated Messrs. Murray and Co.'s ploughs, we must not omit to report that they showed many other useful improvements in agricultural implements. Among them was a new hand roller, so jointed as to suit itself to the inequalities of the ground, however uneven the surface may be. The implement is in three pieces, of about 2 feet each, and each piece is constructed to rest upon its own length; a corn-drill sowing machine, the seed being delivered with pinions, which is a great improvement on hilly land, where the spoon or cup delivery is liable to miss the pipe, and the implement is fitted with a useful contrivance in the form of an indicator, showing how many acres have been travelled over, and thus informing the master whether the seed has been used too freely or too sparingly; a chain pump, a simple, cheap, and most compact article, being an endless chain, with discs cast on, running over a forked wheel, coming up a pipe upon one side, and throwing an immense quantity of water through the discs running up the pipe. The arrangement appears to be in many respects an excellent one. The pump is enclosed in a neat case, so as to prevent the casting about of spray. It has been used, we believe, for ordinary wells as low as 25 feet deep.

Our next number will contain illustrations of several interesting and useful inventions and improvements.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The Ministers at Athens have resigned.

The total number of messages forwarded from postal telegraph stations in the United Kingdom during last week was 192,048.

A disastrous tornado has taken place at Montreal. Several buildings have been destroyed and a great number damaged.

There is news of Dr Livingstone. Captain Anderson, of the ship Montrose, of Dundee, touching at Zanzibar, saw Dr. Kirk, the political agent of the African explorers, who had just received a letter from Dr. Livingstone, stating that he was well, and would shortly make his appearance at one of the European settlements. This brings down the information of the great travellers welfare to the middle of March.

There is a project to establish in New York a great, permanent Industrial Exhibition, on the plan of the Crystal Palace at Sydenham. The Legislature has granted a charter to a company, authorizing the erection of a mammoth hall, which it is designed to fill with paintings, statuary, conservatories of plants, mechanical inventions, and such attractions as a judicious use of a liberal supply of money can gather in successive years. It is proposed to have the Exhibition ready to open in 1872.

Fight Between Prussian and French Clerks in Liverpool.—On Saturday morning, a little before the hour of active business on 'Change, a strange and bloody fracas took place in the office of a leading Liverpool merchant, who has in his employment several Continental gentlemen as clerks. Amongst these are four Prussian and three Frenchmen. Shortly before the arrival of the head of the firm an animated discussion was progressing regarding the Continental crisis, and after some protocols in the shape of caustic "chaff" had been interchanged, the Prussians and Frenchmen came to actual fighting. They seized the massive ledger rules and other extemporised weapons, and an awful encounter ensued, during which blood flowed freely. The Frenchmen, though outnumbered by their antagonists, were superior in physical strength to the Prussians, whom they forced to take refuge in the private office, the door of which was quietly barricaded, the obstacle to the continuance of the encounter affording time for the interference of those whom the din of battle brought quickly upon the spot. It is feared that bad results may follow, as two of the Prussians received such severe injuries as to require their removal to the hospital.

The Fenians Starr and Thompson have been sentenced to be confined for two years in the State prison.

Health of Mr. Briscoe, M.P.—We regret to learn that Mr. Briscoe, M.P., has been prevented by indisposition for several weeks from attending the House of Commons, but it affords us much pleasure to state that the hon. member is now somewhat better.—*Surrey Express.*

On Saturday afternoon Sir Daniel Gooch, M.P., chairman of the Great Western Railway entertained the members of the Great Western Literary Society at a garden *fête*, in the grounds of his residence, at Clewer, near Windsor. The visitors were conveyed to and from Windsor by special train.

The two crack oarsmen of the Thames, Kelley and Sadler have contended again for the championship and a heavy purse. At their last contest the stakes were awarded to Kelley, his opponent having, as it was alleged, been guilty of a "foul." Sadler then brought an action against the stakeholder, and obtained a legal reversion of the decision of the referee. The race last week was fairly rowed out. At starting the betting was something like 2 to 1 on Kelley, but after an admirable race he was beaten by six lengths.

The Dean of Rochester.—The Rev. Robert Scott, D.D., the new Dean of Rochester, who succeeded the late Dean Dale, who held the post for so brief a period, has been installed in his office at Rochester Cathedral, with the usual ceremonies and legal formalities. The canon who installed the Dean was the Rev. E. Hawkins, D.D., Provost of Oriel College, Oxford; and Mr. G. H. Knight was the chapter clerk who performed the legal part of the ceremony.

The Danish War Vessel at Liverpool.—In consequence of orders received from the Danish Admiralty, the corvette Heimdal sailed from the Mersey for Copenhagen on Saturday afternoon. Shortly before her departure Mr. Mullens, Danish Consul at Liverpool, and a party of ladies and gentleman, chiefly Danish, residing in Liverpool, went on board the vessel, where they were hospitably entertained. The captain and officers repeatedly expressed their grateful acknowledgments of the kindness and courtesy extended to them during their stay at that port. A letter from the Consul expressing their gratitude has been received by the Mayor of Liverpool (Alderman Hubback).

The Scotch Herring Fishery.—The announcement that France has declared war with Prussia has created great excitement over the north-east coast of Scotland, where about 4,000 fishing boats are commencing the herring fishing of the season, for the produce of which Prussia is the great market. The result is that in the Wick district, where there are 1,000 boats, the fish curers have to-day declined to enter into engagements with the fishermen for the season's catch. In former years a greater part of them were engaged by this date, but up to this evening scarcely a man is engaged, and the streets are thronged with men in the vain search for employment. No fishing season ever commenced more gloomily, and unless the preparations for war cease, the flourishing fishery, employing 40,000 men, will be destroyed, and the north-east coast of Scotland will be plunged into a condition of almost irretrievable ruin.

Special Correspondents at the Seat of War.—The *London Figaro* says the "Specials" have all gone out to the War. Dr. Russell again represents the *Times*; Mr. Henty goes on behalf of the *Standard*, for whom he acted as correspondent in Abyssinia; Mr. Sala and Mr. Kingston will describe the events of the campaign for the *Telegraph*; the other journals employ men not so well known as the above, but all possessed of ready pens and quick imaginations. In some cases, the London papers pack off their Paris correspondents to the war. The *New York Tribune* is, we believe, to be represented by Mr. Boyle. For the *Morning Post* Mr. Whiteside is named. The *Times* allows its "Specials" unlimited expenditure. We may add that the *Illustrated Midland News* has made special arrangements for original pictorial sketches illustrative of the War. The "Specials" have not yet obtained leave to join the French headquarters.

Sir R. J. H. Harvey.—A sad event occurred at Crown Point, near Norwich, on Friday week. Sir R. J. H. Harvey, banker, late M.P. for Thetford, was in his rosary or shrubbery during Friday afternoon, when suddenly two pistol-shots were heard. Some workmen and relatives rushed to the spot and found Sir Robert in a sitting position, under an ash, bleeding from a severe wound. He was removed into his residence, when it was found that a pistol-shot had penetrated the chest and passed through at the back. Sir Robert rallied slightly, and lingered on in a weak and unconscious state. Painful rumours circulated throughout Norwich on Friday evening, and on Saturday morning the following dismal notice was found to be affixed to the doors of the Norwich Crown Bank, in which Sir Robert is the principal partner:—"Norwich Crown Bank.—In consequence of the lamentable catastrophe which has happened to Sir Robert Harvey it has been determined by the other partners to suspend the business of the bank for the present.—Norwich, July 16."—This bank, which was established 78 years ago, enjoyed an authorised note issue of £49,671, and its business is diffused by about 30 branches throughout the entire county of Norfolk. The partnership consists of Sir Robert John Harvey, and Messrs. Roger Allday Kerrison and Roger Kerrison. From the years 1865 to 1868 Sir Robert Harvey, then Mr. Harvey, who was born in 1817, was M.P. for Thetford, and in 1868 he was created a baronet. At various intervals he has been largely engaged in financial operations, and rumours are current, which it is feared may prove well-founded, that his deplorable aberration resulted from excitement, caused by the violent speculative changes of the previous week. The profits of the bank have been £30,000 per annum, and the business of the establishment properly so called is in a sound state. Overtures have been made to the London and County Banking Company to take over the concern. The unfortunate gentleman died at four o'clock on Tuesday morning. The Crown Bank—that is, the premises and goodwill of the concern—has been purchased by Messrs. Gurneys, Birkbecks, Barclay, and Buxton, bankers, Norwich.

It is reported from Calcutta, that the Rajah of Thulla and the Marajah of Putialla will shortly visit England.

At the Bolton county police-court, a few days ago, John Hulme, a young man, was fined 2s. 6d. and costs, for cutting short the hair of a little boy, named Wallwork, aged five, against whose father the defendant had a grudge.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was present in the House of Lords on Friday night for the first time since his long and serious illness. His grace received hearty the congratulations of many noble lords.

A great Industrial Exposition of Manufactures, Products, and Arts will be held in Cincinnati in September. It is under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Trade, and the Ohio Mechanics' Institute. Premiums will be awarded of gold and silver medals and diplomas.

The Society of Arts have written, through their secretary, to Lord Hartington, to protest against the definition of a newspaper given in the Post Office Bill. It involves the paper "not being stitched." The Council suggest that the requirement should be—a periodical publication "appearing at intervals of not more than seven days."

The Indian Government finds that it cannot afford to pay so liberally as heretofore for slaying tigers and wild beasts, and besides distributing strychnine to poison tigers as a substitute for rifle balls, it has now patronized a cheap tiger-trap, made of the old muskets, each with a few yards of string. In Scinde all rewards for killing jackals, snakes, and some other vermin have been withdrawn.

An International Working Man's Exhibition, which contains innumerable articles of constructive skill and ingenuity, not only from Great Britain, but from France, Italy, Germany, Spain, and other foreign countries, was opened on Saturday by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, acting for the Queen. Her Majesty, it will be remembered, some days ago paid the Exhibition a preliminary visit.

The Princess of Wales and the Cheltenham Confectioner.—We are given to understand, says the *Court Circular*, that on the occasion of the recent visit of their Royal Hignessess the Prince and Princess of Wales to Reading, the attention of the latter was attracted to the magnificent cake supplied by Mr. George, of Cheltenham, to the luncheon given in the Town-hall, and having proved its rare quality by the best of tests, the Princess was pleased to order, through her Grace the Duchess of Manchester, a supply to be forwarded to Marlborough House. This is not, we believe, a solitary instance of Mr. George's skill commanding Royal patronage, and he enjoys something more than local fame. We need hardly add that there has been a "run" upon the cake, favoured by the Princess's approbation.

Death of Lord Justice Giffard.—We deeply regret to announce the death of Sir George Markham Giffard, Lord Justice of the Court of Appeal, who died on Wednesday week, at half-past five o'clock, at his residence in Prince's gardens, Hyde-park. The deeply-lamented and learned Judge was the son of Admiral Giffard, and was born at Portsmouth in 1813. He was educated at Winchester, and afterwards proceeded to New College, Oxford, of which he became a Fellow, and subsequently a B.C.L. at that University. He was called to the bar in November, 1840, at the Inner Temple, of which he was a bencher. In January, 1859, he obtained his silk gown, and in March, 1868, was appointed a Vice-Chancellor, on which occasion he received the usual honour of knighthood; and in December the same year was appointed a Judge of the Court of Appeal in Chancery. The death of this most learned and able Judge will be universally lamented throughout the profession.

Acreage of Wheat in the United States.—In 1869 the increase of acreage of wheat in the United States over 1868 was estimated at more than a million acres, making the aggregate 19,098,000 acres. In 1870 the natural tendency of low prices has been apparent in a reduced acreage, though not to the extent threatened. The reduction of 1870, compared with 1869, is estimated at 900,000 acres. The reduction is greatest in Illinois, 15 per cent. in winter wheat and 18 per cent. in spring wheat; in Indiana, 6 per cent. in winter and 20 per cent. in spring; Ohio, 4 per cent. in winter and 7 per cent. in spring; Wisconsin and Iowa, 8 per cent. reduction, chiefly in spring wheat; and Missouri 7 per. cent. In Minnesota, on the other hand, 2 per cent. increase of acreage is claimed; Kansas, 16 per cent. increase, and California, 5 per cent. There is also a gain in West Virginia and Kentucky. The South generally falls off, some of the cotton States to the extent of 20 per cent., although North Carolina claims a slight increase. New England has fallen off 2 per cent. and New York 4 per cent. The season has been moderately propitious. The average is estimated at 11 bushels per acre.

Departure of Prussians.—The Consul-General of the North German Confederation in London has issued an official advertisement calling on all German subjects who are now residing in Great Britain or Ireland, and who are liable to military service, to report themselves, and proceed at once to Germany. This order has been anticipated by many Prussian subjects in London, some thirty of whom departed on Saturday evening by mail train from Charing-cross to join the army at Berlin, being accompanied to the station by a great number of their countrymen. As the train left "Die Wache am Rhein" was sung, and the greatest enthusiasm entered into the adieux between the departing volunteers—for such thay may be called, as not one of them had received any official command to repair homeward—and their countrymen who crowded round the gate of the railway platform. At Newport, Cardiff, and the other South Wales ports there is a large number of French and German vessels, of the former more particularly, and the announcement of a declaration of war was received with the greatest consternation on Friday evening. The German Consuls and Vice-Consuls at the ports received telegrams directing all the Germans to return home immediately, and, in pursuance of this command, the masters and crews of many of the ships have already commenced their journey to Fatherland. Their vessels are left behind, and will no doubt remain util the war is over.

President Grant has nominated Mr. Theodore Frelinghusen as Minister to Great Britain in the place of Mr. Motley.

An Agricultural Institute is being constructed near Lima, in Peru, for which the estate of San Martin has been acquired. Seeds and plants are being purchased in Chile.

Twenty-five families of Hollanders, being a portion of a large colony, have just settled in Sioux county, Iowa, U.S. They have entered and will occupy all the Government land in four townships, in the centre of which they will lay out a town, to be called Hope.

The President of the United States has sent to the Senate copies of the diplomatic correspondence relative to the Alabama claims, which shows that Earl Clarendon on the 6th of May, in response to Mr. Motley's proposition to reopen correspondence, stated that her Majesty's Government considered it neither useful nor expedient to continue a controversial correspondence on which there was so little hope of one Government convincing the other.

The ceremony of presenting the honorary freedom of the City of London to M. de Lesseps, in recognition of the successful completion of the Suez Canal, will take place in the Guildhall on the 30th inst. The address of the Corporation, by which the honorary freedom is conveyed, will be enclosed in a gold box of the value of 100 guineas, which is now being prepared under the direction of the General Purposes Committee of the Common Council. The ceremony will take place in the great hall, and there is every reason to believe that it will be largely attended.

Six hundred and one fathers were present at the Œcumenical Council when the vote on the Infallibility dogma was taken. Many absent Fathers were recalled in all haste by the Court of Rome in order to diminish the numerical importance of the opposition. The general aspect of the assembly was much agitated; forty-eight Fathers gave votes of *non placet*, including Cardinal Mathieu, Schwarzenberg, and Rauscher, and the Archbishops of Paris and Grenoble.

A New Chinese God.—Ward, an American who rendered great service to the Chinese Emperor, has been deified. The emperor, in a recent edict, has placed him among the major gods of China, commanding shrines to be built and worship to be paid to the memory of this American. The people are worshipping him along with the most ancient and powerful deities of their religion, as a great deliverer from war and famine—as a powerful god in the form of man. In every househould, school, and temple his name will be thus commemorated.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presided on Monday at Marlborough House over a meeting of Her Majesty's Commissioners for the Exhibition of 1851. There were also present his Royal Highness the Prince Christian, the Duke of Buccleuch, Earl de Grey and Ripon, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Alexander Spearman, Sir Charles Lyell, Sir Francis Grant, Sir Francis Sandford, Mr. Edgar Bowring, Mr. Gibson, Dr. Playfair, Mr. Prestwich, Mr. Thring, Mr. Vignoles, and Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, R.E. (secretary).

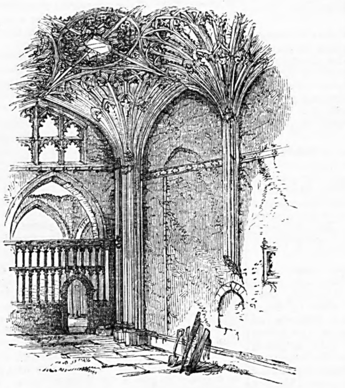
American Import Trade.—For some time past there has been an agitation on the part of the inland cities of the United States to get more control of their import trade from foreign countries than they have now. This import trade is now chiefly monopolized by New York and Boston, which afterwards distribute the imported goods over the country. The interior wants direct importations, so that its trade shall not be subject to the exactions and charges at these seaboard cities. The House of Representatives, in obedience to this desire, has just passed a Bill allowing the transportation of imported articles in bonds, excepting wines, distilled spirits, and perishable or explosive articles from New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Port Huron, and New Orleans, to any of these ports, or to Portland, Buffalo, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Evansville, and Milwaukie.

The Darien Canal Scheme.—The expedition employed in the endeavour to survey a favourable line of cutting for the Darien Canal continue to report gloomily. The only fact established is said to be that the Isthmus cannot be passed excepting by tunnelling, and now the question to be discussed is the feasibility of a tunnelled canal. The labour expended on the surveys is not, however, wholly lost, as it added a valuable contribution to our geographical knowledge of the Isthmus. Advices from Bogota state that a gentleman had arrived there and presented to the New Grenada Government a memorial from a British company, asking the grant of a privilege to the company to undertake the construction of an interoceanic canal. Upon the same subject Senator Sumner in the Senate recently reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations a joint resolution authorising an exploration and survey of the Tehuantepec and Nicaragua route for an interoceanic ship canal.

Improved Model Dwellings for Farm Labourers.—The Marquis of Ailesbury, K.G., is about to remodel a large number of dwellings on his lordship's estates at Savernake, in Wiltshire. The plans will be on various improved models. Each cottage will contain a living room, scullery, and three bed-rooms, with entrance porch, pantry, wood-house, piggery, cesspit, ashpit, &c. Each dwelling will have a hard and soft water supply, with washing-copper, pumps, sink, and a fire-clay baking oven of an improved description. The living-rooms will be fitted with ranges and ovens, and the bed-rooms will have small cottage grates. Some of the cottages will have all their bed-rooms on the chamber-floor, while in others one will be placed on the ground floor. The cottages will be built of a local red brick made on his lordship's estates, relieved with dark grey bricks. The roofs will be covered with Staffordshire or Bridgwater tiles in bands and courses, finished with an ornamental crested ridge. The porches will have projecting roofs supported on corbels and brackets, and the dormer windows will also have bold projecting roofs. The cottages will be erected in pairs and groups, presenting a pleasing, rustic appearance. The works will be carried out from the plans, and under the direction of Mr. John Birch, of Beaufort Buildings, London, whose designs it will be remembered gained the Society of Arts medal and premium, and have been successfully carried out in many parts of the country.

ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL.

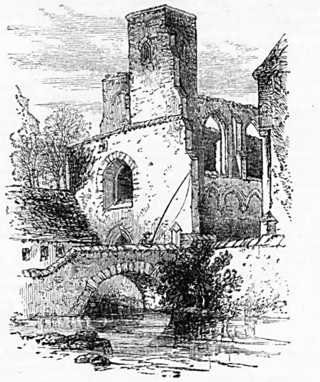
Last week we took our readers to the sea-side—Milford Haven, Tenby, Isle of Wight, and Filey: this week we will, by their leave, go more inland, and take just a glance at St. David's Cathedral. A drive of fifteen or sixteen miles west from Haverford brings us to a valley wherein lies Menevia, now St. David's. In spite of its sad dilapidations the Cathedral is a noble cruciform structure. It is still, in plan and design, by far the finest of the four Welsh Cathedrals, *malgré* all the havoc that has been made upon its fabric. Its square tower is heavy and cumbrous, and is little relieved by the poor parapet and pinnacles which surmount it. The almost entire absence of windows, and the fact that the parapet projects outwards, are the chief causes of its unsightliness. The western front, having fallen into ruins, was restored towards the close of last century. Entering the Cathedral by the south-west porch, we find ourselves in the very handsome nave.



BISHOP VAUGHAN'S CHAPEL, ST. DAVID'S.

This is divided from the side aisle by two rows of fine massive Norman pillars, alternately round and octagonal, with corresponding pilasters at either end, supporting six round arches of ornamental Norman work. Over these again is a range of smaller Norman pillars, of smaller dimensions, reaching to the roof. The ceiling is of Irish oak, divided into square compartments: it is justly admired for the elegance of its design and for the finish of its workmanship.

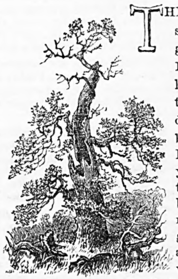
Behind the high altar in the choir and the Lady Chapel is the fine chapel which still bears the name of Bishop Vaughan, whereof we give an illustration in this column. The glass is gone from its windows, and so are the brasses from its stone pavement; but its lovely fan tracery still remains, a splendid memorial of its founder's taste, even in its present condition. The marble stone and the brass tablet which once marked the bishop's grave in this chapel have long since perished by the hands of ruthless Puritans.



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, ST. DAVID'S.

The next building which claims our notice, the St. Mary's College, stands almost close to the north side of the nave. This institution was founded A. D. 1365, by John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, Blanche his wife, and Adam Houghton, then Bishop of St. David's, who endowed it for a master and seven priests, as fellows. At the dissolution of religious houses in the reign of Henry VIII., it passed into lay hands. At that time its revenues were estimated at £106 a year. The only portion now standing are the tower and outer walls of the chapel, which is the subject of our second illustration. The building was lighted by three windows, originally filled with exquisite painted glass. The tower, above seventy feet high, is well proportioned. The chapel communicated by cloisters with the cathedral. It is built over a vaulted apartment of similar size, which was used as a charnel house. A small stream of water trickles from the eastward through this dark and gloomy room from the sacred spring which is mentioned in the life of St. David, and which still finds its way, as it did one thousand years ago, into the little river Olan, running close under its western front.

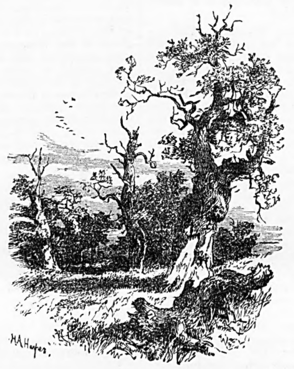
THE HOME OF ROBIN HOOD.



THE grand old forest of Sherwood still exists, but its ancient glory is gone. Since the days of Robin Hood miles and miles of huge oaks have been hewn down for what is termed improvement, and day by day noisy engines go snorting along by dingy farmsteads where the King's venison was once cooked for ye merrie men. You may ride through the forest from end to end, but no sound of the horn that summoned the men in Lincoln green gladdens you with the prospect of adventure. It matters not now whether your purse be heavy or light, for there is no Little John to invite you to dine, or Will Scarlett to relieve you of your money whether or not you accept the invitation. No, they are all gone, and, as Keats sings:

> On the fairest time of June
> You may go, with sun or moon,
> Or the seven stars to light you,
> Or the polar ray to right you;
> But you never may behold
> Little John or Robin bold;
> Never one of all the clan,
> Thrumming, on an empty can,
> Some old hunting ditty.

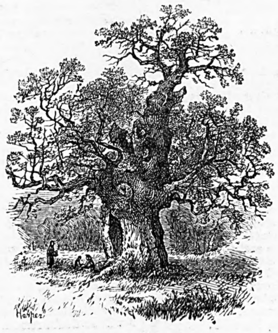
In passing we would refer our readers to a work that may interest them—"Robin Hood: or the Merry Men of Sherwood Forest." It is written by an author who is continually being abused, and who was attacked only a fortnight ago in the *Saturday Review*. We allude, of course, to Pierce Egan, who—in spite of all the bitter things that have been said of him by men of far less merit—has thousands of admirers, has worked successfully for many a long year in literature, and has, beyond doubt, written some really good stuff. But to our subject.



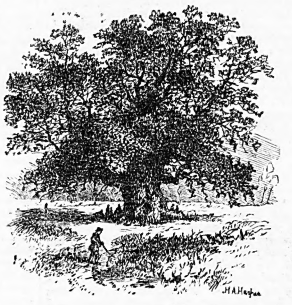
BIT OF OLD FOREST.

Let us make aquaintance with Sherwood as it is, and spend a short time together, reader, in tracking out its beauties. Entering from the Mansfield side, we come upon one of the only bits of old forest left. The few trees remaining are of great size and age, and very picturesque. Pass on and you find oaks of giant size and grand in form. A landscape gardener would see much to admire here. The drives are covered with smooth turf and are broad and imposing. Sometimes we come upon trees planted with evergreen shrubs; but the Forest is gone! 'Tis but a remnant, after all, that is left. The major part of the oaks were cut down, it is said, in the Great War.

From time to time oaks and Spanish chesnuts have been planted in the wastes; and these, not yet fully grown, are mixed with ancient oaks and full-grown birches, that give at once a striking idea of past and present. The manly oaks stand upright in stalwart strength, while the birches gracefully bend like courtseying maidens. In among the silver-barked birches, through the bracken, across to the broad drive; then on to the right, and then you come to the most famous oak in the forest—Robin Hood's Larder. Four feet from the ground it is more than twenty feet in circumference, while in the hollow trunk twenty persons might squeeze together for shelter in a shower. 'Twas here that Robin Hood kept his venison; and beneath the shade of that old oak he, and Little John, "Scarlock, George-a-Green, and Much the Miller's Son," with many another of the merry band may have spread their fare upon the ground. The tree is on the edge of the drive, and is closely surrounded on the three other sides by young plantations. Push your way through the underwood, and you will get the best view of the Larder Oak, or Slaughter House Tree, as it is sometimes called. But for the great care taken in sustaining the branches by chains, this fine old tree would long since have been a wreck. On we go again along the broad drive, till the surrounding trees become more numerous, and we find ourselves in the heart of the forest, among the tall fern and the prickly gorse and the downy moss that forms a natural bed inviting you to lie down and rest. On again by the long line of magnificent birches that skirt Thoresby Park, and we come to the Major Oak. (We may here mention that in our illustrations the surrounding trees of course are omitted, to give greater prominence to the one particular tree sketched.) The Major Oak is interesting for its grandeur—Robin Hood's Larder for its traditional character. The former is one of the grandest oaks perhaps in the world; but its heart is dead though its head be green. "You might gather a troop of horse beneath its spreading branches; and the forest, till now so close about you, sweeps back around it, as though enamoured of its beauty and bowing down before it. Firm and sound it is to sight; but march round it and you shall find a hollow place within, where you might lie hid the livelong day. The bole is said to have a circumference of ninety feet; you could scarcely compass it in twenty-five long steps. Six feet from the ground the girth is thirty feet; one of the arms alone is twelve feet in circumference. Into its hollow trunk twelve persons have often clambered." Its principal arm is now chained up, being hardly able to bear the wintery storms which often mutilate these trees.

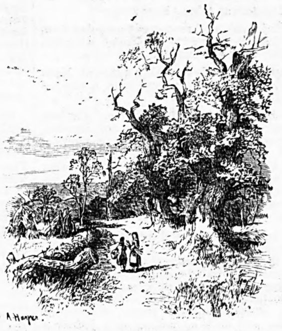


ROBIN HOOD'S LARDER.



"MAJOR" OAK.

In the summer you are almost sure to find some pic-nic party enjoying themselves beneath its shade. One feature certain to strike the visitor to Sherwood Forest is the number of trees that have had their branches killed and whitened by the lightning. The artist, Mr. Harper, who is the designer of the illustrations accompanying this brief description of Sherwood, gives the following account of a storm in which he witnessed the striking of an old oak by lightning: "I was going," he says, "about ten o'clock one day in September, 1864, to a sketch near Simon Foster, when sudden darkness came on, and immediately heavy rain. Simon Foster stands somewhat in a glade, with two other oaks. I paused under one for an instant, and then quitted it for 'Simon.' I had no sooner done so when, looking up, I saw the sky open, and a ball of fire issued. Then the whole glade became a *sea of fire;* at the same instant a dull crunch, a sharp crack, and peal upon peal of awful thunder. I ran out of the forest—lightning flashing at every step—the ridings ankle deep in water—the rain pouring down. On reaching the common the storm cleared off: a blue sky and calmness seemed all around. Half an hour after I was alarmed by hearing that a mounted messenger had roused the village by the news that the forest was on fire. I asked where, and rushed up. The tree under which I had at first stood was on fire, and burning branches were falling around. Means were taken to prevent it from spreading; but not till six in the evening was the fire put out, and then by the fire engine from Thoresby Park. No trace of the lightning can be discovered on the trunk near the ground; the rest of the tree is a ruin. (As seen in the vignette at the beginning of this article.) It was the general remark that, had it not been for the heavy rain, part of Sherwood Forest must have been burnt: for it was a dry season, and there had been no rain for nearly six weeks. The only wonder is that the bolt did not strike Simon, as that is the largest tree. Speaking for myself, it was a day to be remembered."



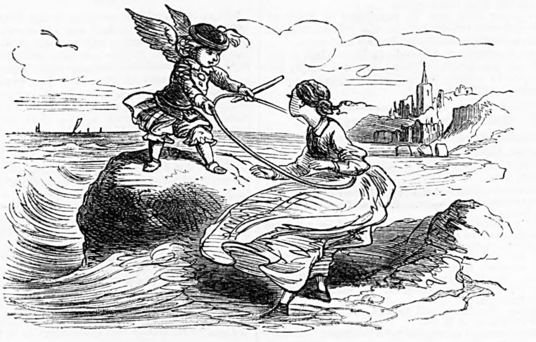
OUTSKIRTS OF FOREST.

SKETCHES BY "PHIZ."

THE RING.

The marriage ring binds a maiden over to her lover for aye! Then she is completely entrapped, and made safe and sure against all rivals. Whilst the young hero isc atching his angel—his dove, or what not—he is catching himself likewise, and neither the one nor the other can get out of the noose and be fancy free as before. But Dan Cupid has a ring too, and 'tis he who first snares the lovers. He has caught a damsel by the sea, as will be seen in our engraving, and he will take her to a love-lorn youth he has left in a wood not far off. Then Cupid will have played his part, the young man will sigh like a furnace till the marriage ring makes secure to him his heart's delight.

Chess.—A great match of fifteen players on each side has been arranged between the City of London and Westminster Chess Clubs, to be played at the rooms of the latter, Caledonian Hotel, Adelphi, on Tuesday next. Considerable interest is felt among chess players in the result. The two sides will embrace the *elite* of the chess world in the metropolis.



THE RING.

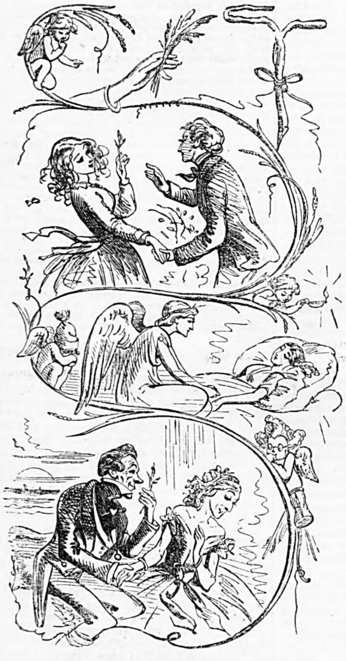
FAIR DRINKING.

There's an old Pope-ish legend going,
About the right of knowing,
Which says it's only for the upper classes,—
Only for them the Muses' tap is flowing,—
And all below the salt must sit with empty glasses.
"Not so," says Education,
"I brew for all the nation,—
Drink, he who thirsts,—I sell by pint and barrel.'

And this explains the quarrel:—

So ye who wish to be as learned
As St. Augustine or St. Bernard,
Cardan or Aristote,
Drink on (there's none prevents) your fill;
Get boosey on the classic rill;
But the Pierides declare
The Million waits to have its share;
So drink,—*but pass the bottle!*

There is a movement in Cambridge for raising "funds to present a life boat to the Royal National Life Boat Institute." This would be a gift by the town, the University having already founded a boat called the "Tom Egan."



THE SPRIG OF LAVENDER.

THE SPRIG OF LAVENDER.

I.

It is a faded sprig of Lavender, in nowise worth the keeping,
Yet I prize it above other things, though valueless it be;
For she's far off that gave it me, where clouds are calmly sleeping
All summer through, above the hills so very dear to me.

II.

The little hand that gave it, with the tiny fairy fingers,
With touches imperceptible has stolen all my heart;
Oh! frankly does she offer it, and oftentimes it lingers
Right lovingly within my own, where'er we meet or part.

III.

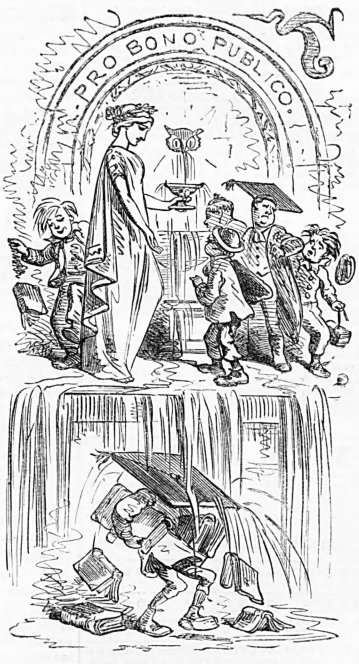
Yes, she is fair and gentle, and her voice is low and tender
As the whisper of a summer wind, or distant streams at play;
And may good angels guard her well, and sunniest moments send her,
Will ever be my prayer for her, when I am far away.

IV.

And thoughts of her bring thoughts of home, and all I've left behind me;
And then my thoughts go wandering in the mansions of the Past,
And little is the Lavender then needed to remind me
How happy hours, like summer flowers, must fade and perish fast.

V.

And yet I keep the Lavender, and when again I meet her,
I'll show her how I've kept it, and she'll turn away her head;
And blushing, say I'm foolish; but can anything be sweeter
Than to see the blushes rising o'er her cheek so rosy-red?


PRO BONO PUBLICO.

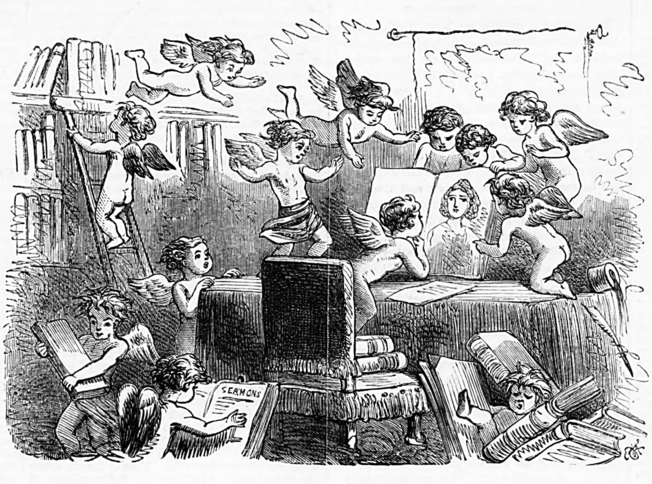
FAIR DRINKING.

THE LOVES IN ERROR.

To-day, as idly in my chair
I, hardly half awake, was dreaming,
Methought, in through the sunny air,
A swarm of laughing loves came streaming—
Wing'd mischiefs—here and there without
My leave, the wantons gleamed and fluttered,
Buzzing, like bees, the room about,
Ere half a sentence could be uttered.

In fact, with such glad hushed surprise,
I saw the little urchins flying,
Like humming birds, before my eyes,
In every nook and corner prying,
Now handling this—now into that
With childish laughs and chatter peeping,
I did not care to stay their chat,
But silent sat as I'd been sleeping.

What would they do? Quick, every one
Found every moment new employment:
They paused at last; well, now what fun
Would yield their smallships fresh employment?
My scrap-book lay before me there;
One saw, and straightway courage mustered,
Helped by five more the prize to bear
To where all close around it clustered.



Swift over, leaf on leaf was turned;
Small praise, each sketch, while passing under
Those tiny curious quick eyes, earned,
Till, ah! at last, one waked their wonder;
My pencil there had vainly tried,
How vainly! as it oft had striven,
To do that unto it denied—
Image the beauty to you given.

Yet passion there, to labouring art,
A strength beyond its own had granted;
Enough was there to make them start,
However much of you was wanted;
Eyes, dimples, hair, those peeping pearls,
As those red lips so archly show them,
They saw them, and, O flower of girls!
How strange! at once they seemed to know them.

O what a storm of pretty noise,
Of cries and clappings straight I heard then,
Of little feet that stamped the joys,
Enough their small tongues could'nt word then;
What with delight could thrill them so!
Hardly my wonder I could smother;
Till, listening, soon I laughed to know,
They, in your likeness, saw their mother.

PARIS FASHIONS FOR
THIS MONTH
IN BONNETS, HATS, MANTLES,
JACKETS, SILK COSTUMES,
PLAIN AND FANCY SILKS.

H. W. HOWE,

Begs to call special attention to a new make of BLACK SILK, *exclusively* confined to his Sale *in Birmingham*. Guaranteed to Wear. Importer of

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AND MILLINERY.
BRUNSWICK BUILDINGS,
43, *NEW STREET, BIRMINGHAM.* [677

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COLESHILL STREET.
PROPRIETORS, J. JUDD AND CO.

MONDAY, July 25th, and During the Week.
First Appearance this Season of
JOLLY NASH, the Inimitable Comic Vocalist.
The Lyceum, London, and Gaity, Paris, Characteristique Troupe. MANAGERESS:—
MADLLE. ESTHER AUSTIN,
The Champion Characteristique and Grotesque Danseuse of the World.
TWO BALLETS NIGHTLY.
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LES OMBRES
A comic Pantomimic SKETCH with Lime Light effects.
THE FEMALE TROUPE OF PANTOMIMISTS.
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Clown (original)—ESTHER AUSTIN.
THE GREAT GLOVE FIGHT!
LE GRAND CARNIVAL.
Le Beau .. .. ESTHER AUSTIN.
The Original Performer in England of LE "CAN-CAN."
The whole of the Dances arranged,
And the Ballets entirely produced by MADLLE. ESTHER AUSTIN.
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The Queen of the Lofty Wire. (Every Evening.)
First Appearance of
MR. AND MRS. HUMPHREY, COMIC DUALISTS.
MISS ROSE MEREDITH, the Dashing Serio-Comic.
BROWN and NEWLAND, Negro Comedians.
General Manager and Stage Director ... Mr. E. MARTIN.
Doors open every Evening at half-past Six. [800

THE WAR.

A SPECIAL ARTIST and CORRESPONDENT has been dispatched to the Seat of War by the Proprietors of the *Illustrated Midland News*. His labours have been supplemented by special arrangemenes with other Artists for Illustrations of the War.

ILLUSTRATIONS IN PREPARATION:

Portraits of the Emperor Napoleon, King William of Prussia, Prince Frederick, and Prince Leopold,
Portraits of Prussian and French Generals.
Full Page Illustration of the Horse Ring at the Royal Agricultural Show, Oxford.
Full Page Portrait of Lady Beauchamp.
Sketch in the Birmingham Market Hall.
Full Page View of Lichfield Cathedral.
Engravings of Famous Pictures,
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&c., &c.

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Surgeon Dentist, of 17, Bennett's Hill, has invented the method of fixing Artificial Teeth, by atmospheric pressure, that to remove would be impossible, except at the will of the wearer. Fixed without THE SLIGHTEST PAIN, or removal of stumps. Detection impossible. ARTICULATION, MASTICATION, and COMFORT guaranteed. Teeth from 5s. Sets from £5. Mr. Parker attends daily.

17, *BENNETT'S HILL* (*First door from New Street*). [654

FRY'S CARACAS COCOA.

FRY'S CARACAS COCOA.
"No more delicious, refreshing, nourishing, and wholesome beverage has ever been manufactured."—*Morning Post.* [960

GALVANISM—PULVERMACHER'S MONTHLY RECORD of authenticated CURES of Painful, Debilitating, Exhausting Affections, by his PATENT PERFECTED SELF-APPLICABLE ELECTRIC CHAIN-BANDS and BATTERIES, may be had gratis on application to the Sole Inventor and Patentee—J. L. PULVERMACHER, 200, Regent-street, London, W.
A Test sent gratis if desired. [629

AUCTION ROOMS AND FINE ART GALLERIES, (formerly Winstanley's), 44, Church Street, Liverpool. Established 1810, for the Sale by Auction of Furniture, Works of Art, Jewellery, Plate, Books, Wines, China, Glass, Hardware, Carpets, Stocks in Trade, and Goods of every description. Consignments invited. Cash advanced, if required. GEORGE TURNER, Auctioneer, Valuer, &c,, Liverpool. [797

TIC, NEURALGIA, TOOTHACHE, SCIATICA, RHEUMATISM, and all Nerve Pains are immediately cured by LEATH and ROSS'S
NEURALINE.
Extract of a letter from Mr. Edgar, of the Butt Lighthouse, Island of Lews, to Sir James Matheson, Nov. 23, 1869:—"Mrs. Edgar cannot express her thanks to Lady Matheson for sending the Neuraline, as it has proved to be the most successful lotion which she has ever applied to the affected part. The relief experienced is almost instantaneous."
In bottles 1s. 1½d., 1s. 9d., 2s. 9d., and 4s. 6d. Prepared by LEATH and ROSS, 5, St. Paul's Churchyard, corner of Doctors' Commons, E.C.; and 9, Vere Street, W.; and Sold by all Chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors. [922

COMPANION TO THE SICK ROOM.—The QUEEN'S LAVENDER WATER is the most Fragrant, Refreshing, and Lasting of all Perfumes. Prepared only by J. PROCTER (late Thonger and Gray), 104, Broad Street, Islington. [780

LADIES IN SEARCH OF A REALLY EFFICIENT SEWING MACHINE ARE INVITED TO SEE THE LITTLE WANZER.—Upwards of 15,000 of these Exquisite Little Machines have been sold in England and Scotland since its introduction, two years ago. The price complete is only 84s., and includes, in addition to the usual attachments, a Self-sewer, Oiler, Braider, and Quilter, rendering it not only the cheapest, but the best and most complete Hand Lock-Stitch Machine in the market. Wholesale and Retail Depot for the Midland Counties, Oriel House, Bull-street, Birmingham; and 10, Darlington-street, Wolverhampton. Joseph Harris, Proprietor. Agents wanted where none already appointed. [627

NOTHING IMPOSSIBLE.—AGUA AMARELLA restores the human hair to its pristine hue, no matter at what age. J. GOSNELL AND CO. have at length, with the aid of one of the most eminent chemists, succeeded in perfecting this wonderful liquid. It is now offered to the public in a more concentrated form, and at a lower price. Sold in bottles at 3s. each, also 5s., 7s. 6d., and 15s. each, including brush. [851

JOHN GOSNELL AND CO.'S CHERRY TOOTH PASTE is greatly superior to any Tooth Powder, gives the Teeth a pearl-like whiteness, protects the enamel from decay, and imparts a pleasing fragrance to the breath. Price 1s.6d. per pot. Angel Passage, 93, Upper Thames-street, London. [852

NOTICES.

THE ILLUSTRATED MIDLAND NEWS IN PARIS AND ON THE CONTINENT.

This paper may now be purchased in Paris at 50 centimes (about 5d.) at the Kiosks, and at the bookstalls on all the French Railways.

M. de Bernardy, 8, Place de la Madeléine, is the Wholesale Agent in Paris; and will supply the paper to regular subscribers in France, Spain Italy, and Switzerland.

TO LONDON ADVERTISERS.

London Advertisements are received at the London Office, 33, Essex-street, Strand, where all information can be obtained with regard to terms, &c.

Communications and orders for Papers or Advertisements should be addressed to the *Publishers*, and not to the Editor.

All remittances will be acknowledged on a printed receipt form, *and no other receipt will be held valid.*

Advertisements are inserted at the rate of 6d. per line. Space will be measured as lines. Scale and measure may be had on application at the Office. Double columns charged at one-fourth more than the rate of two columns. No extra charge for approved cuts.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths are inserted at a uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

The Trade will be supplied with this paper in London by Messrs. Smith, 186, Strand; by Messrs. E. Marlborough & Co., Ave Maria Lane, E.C.; and at the London Publishing Office of the Paper, at 33, Essex-street, Strand. Annual Subscribers can be supplied free by post direct from the Office, 108, New Street, at 17s. 6d. a year.

NOTICE.

Volume II. of the *Illustrated Midland News* is now ready, handsomely bound, price 10s. 6d. Covers supplied to subscribers at 2s. 6d.

In our next and succeeding publications for several weeks will appear illustrations of the Royal Agricultural Show at Oxford.

VOLUNTEER INSPECTION, JULY 30.

A Grand Double Page Illustration of the above event will be given in the *Illustrated Midland News* Orders for copies should be given early.

The Illustrated MIDLAND NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, JULY 23, 1870.

Now our Volunteers are wishing their old Enfields were needle guns. For some years after the beginning of the Volunteer movement in 1859 our citizen army was a real force among the forces of Europe. It was capable of exercising a moral influence upon the feelings and purposes of any nation that might desire to enter into hostilities with us. That condition of things no longer exists. A country with an army whose soldiers carry-breech-loaders is justified in looking upon the Volunteer force of England as a nonenity; for it has come to this in Europe, that on a field of battle fifty battalions of men armed with muzzle-loaders are absolutely of no account. They would be cut down with the first flash of battle, like the soldiers of King Theodore in Abyssinia. The crisis has come when the country would back up the Volunteers in their demand for an immediate supply of breech-loaders. Birmingham is prepared to furnish the weapon at a very short notice.

TOURISTS and autumn holiday-makers in general will be compelled, by the warlike movements on the Continent, to seek their recreation on their own side of the channel. Happily there are attractions at home which the most experienced excursionist can hardly have exhausted. In the West of England, in Wales, in the North —in twenty directions, there are scenes and resting places equalled only by a few spots in Europe, and explored hitherto by comparatively few Englishmen. The files of the *Illustrated Midland News* will afford intending home tourists many a valuable hint where to go, where to stay, and what to see.

BIRMINGHAM, outside its Town Hall, has declared itself in favour of a Federal Parliament for Ireland; and since Birmingham has spoken, albeit the declaration was made *al fresco*, we suppose the project will be recognised henceforward as one of the registered popular movements of the day in this country. It is a scheme to change Ireland into a semi-independent colony or province. The Sister Isle is to be converted into another New Dominion, close to our own doors, and to receive broad hints now and then from British Colonial Secretaries and statesmen that we are perfectly ready to "cut the painter" as soon as the island feels strong enough to drift away and keep itself afloat. It is rather significant that while one section of politicians is working for the absolute severance of the self-governing colonies from the mother country, another section is moving for the conversion of Ireland into just such a portion of the empire as are those new distant countries which are attached to us by links so very precarious. And it is still more significant that while Englishmen at home are seeking to crumble the British Empire into fragments by a process of spontaneous disintegration, the great dominant Powers of Europe are more than ever determined to consolidate their territory, and to remain great and dominant. Are we not growing a little too magnanimous?

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR.

Before last week's impression of the *Illustrated Midland News* had reached the hands of all its readers in this country the announcement, too late for insertion in our columns, went through Europe and across the Atlantic that France had declared war against Prussia. The gravity of the subject is such that nearly all readers had made themselves acquainted with the circumstances of the quarrel up to that moment. Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who had accepted his official nomination as a candidate for the Spanish throne, had, by the advice of his father, Prince Antoine, withdrawn his pretensions as a candidate rather than place in jeopardy the peace of Europe; but France, conceiving that the candidature was part of a Prussian scheme of aggrandizement to give her a preponderance in the balance of power in Europe, was not satisfied with the personal withdrawal of the candidature; she demanded of the King of Prussia an avowal that his majesty had had no part in the project, or a declaration that he would not counsel the candidature on any future occasion. King William, however, deemed the withdrawal of the candidature sufficient, and refused to make any sort of declaration or to give any assurance to France. Here are a few of the most exciting items of intelligence immediately preceding the declaration of war:—"The *North German Gazette* reports from Ems that the French Ambassador, M. Benedetti, has so far violated the etiquette of diplomatic intercourse as to address the King of Prussia while walking on the promenade on the subject of the present dispute, and endeavour to force a declaration from his Majesty." The *North German Gazette* also contains the following:—"Fourteen powerful frigates are being equipped in French ports. No one, therefore, will feel surprised at the Prussian Government taking steps for the defence of North German ports against the menace thereby implied." "Subsequently to the reception by the French Government of the official communication that Prince Leopold of Hohenzollern had withdrawn his pretensions, the French Ambassador addressed a demand to the King of Prussia to authorise him to telegraph to Paris that he (the King) engages at all future times to refuse his consent, should the Prince of Hohenzollern be again nominated. The King refused to receive the Ambassador again, and sent word to him by his Aide-de-Camp that his Majesty had no further communication to make to him." M. Benedetti has not again been received by the King at Ems, and it is asserted that the French Government has demanded a special letter of apology from the King of Prussia to the Emperor Napoleon." In Saturday morning's papers the announcement was made that the peace of Europe was to be broken, and that France and Prussia were making determined preparations for battle. The important resolve was made known to the French Chambers on their assembling on Friday afternoon. M. Ollivier read a communication that had been drawn up at a Council of Ministers, briefly stating the course of these negociations with Prussia on the candidature of Prince Hohenzollern, which were brought to an abrupt termination by the King of Prussia refusing to comply with the demand made by France that he should engage, if the Crown of Spain were again offered to the Prince of Hohenzollern, to refuse his authorisation, and subsequently by his Majesty refusing to receive M. Benedetti. In conclusion, the Minister said "the French Goverement has learned that Baron Werther has received orders to take his leave, and that Prussia is arming. Under these circumstances we should have forgotten our dignity and also our prudence had we not made preparations. We have prepared to maintain the war which is offered to us, leaving to each that portion of the responsibility which devolves upon him. Since yesterday we have called out the reserve, and we shall take the necessary measures to guard the interest, and the security, and the honour of France." The excitement and enthusiasm in France was extreme. Crowds paraded the streets, crying out "*Vive la guerre!*" "*A bas la Prusse!*" and "*à Berlin!*" The feeling in Prussia was at least as warlike. His Majesty King William arrived at his Palace at a quarter past nine o'clock, and was received with indescribable enthusiasm. Upwards of 100,000 persons were assembled from the railway station at the Brandenburg Gate to the Palace, cheering and singing the national anthem. The promenade Unter den Linden at Berlin was illuminated and decorated with the North German and Prussian flags. King William came forward repeatedly to the windows of the Palace, saluting and thanking the crowd. Public feeling was most enthusiastic and determined. Addresses were received by the King from the merchants of Bremen and Stettin, expressing readiness to make the utmost sacrifices for the defence of the country, and giving approval to the most energetic steps that might be taken for the preservation of the national honour.

One of the first questions which arose upon the declaration of hostilities was the various relations of the other Powers of Europe to the quarrel, and the manner in which they would be affected by the struggle. There is reason to believe that a very intimate understanding exists between Austria and France, and it is generally thought that Austria, though prepared to remain neutral so long as France and Prussia fight single-handed, is ready to range herself on the side of the French power the moment any external assistance is rendered to Prussia. Great Britain is immediately concerned in the turn of affairs in two directions. First we are bound by treaty to protect the independence of Belgium should the territory of King Leopold be invaded by either party. The Emperor has asked the Belgian Government whether it is able to protect its own borders against Prussia, declaring that if it is not France will occupy Belgium to prevent Prussian troops from crossing the frontier. Belgium proudly replies that she is able to take care of herself. She wants no French troops to come and render her fields a battle ground. If the King felt himself not strong enough to keep Prussia off on the one hand and France on the other, he would appeal to England to help him, and if England were made a party to the war she would lay herself open to attack, not in Belgium only, but wherever she is vulnerable. Then if Russia seizes the opportunity to infringe the independence of Turkey, Great Britain is bound to defend the Porte. This would have the effect of placing England alongside Napoleon in a general war wherein Russia and Prussia would be on one side and England, France and Austria on the other, when Prussia would seek to arouse disaffection in the more purely German provinces of Austria, and attempt once again, probably, to enlist Italy on her side, promising in return to drive the Pope and the French occupation out of Rome. Then if Russia were against us it is not unlikely that the United States would seize the opportunity to demand a prompt settlement of the Alabama claims, for there is much sympathy and friendly feeling between the great powers of the North and the West. It is difficult, indeed, to place a limit to the possiblities of such a war as this. Of the efforts made by our Government to avert the calamity it is enough to say that no exertion seems to have been spared, and that our opinion has not been paid much regard to by either party, and especially by the French, who seem to have followed their own mad course uninfluenced by any other consideration than that of passion and the excitement of the war feeling. It was understood in the Metropolis on Monday that 10,000 British troops have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to Belgium, in view of any eventualities that may arise should the neutrality of Belgium be disregarded.

The following is the version given by the *Times* correspondent at Berlin of the alleged breach of diplomatic etiquette committed by the French Ambassador at Ems, and the rebuff administered to him by the King of Prussia:

> France declared herself to be not content with the mere retirement of Prince Hohenzollern. She now insisted upon a public sanction of his retreat by the King of Prussia. More than that, she asked the King to engage at no future time to allow any member of his family to become a candidate for the throne of Spain. To acquit himself of the ungracious message he had been instructed to deliver, the French Ambassador thought it decent to stop His Majesty as he was walking in the public gardens at Ems. There, in an alley filled with the pleasure-seekers of a German spa, with fashionable ladies and gentlemen gossiping at a few paces, and the eyes of the whole elegant and curious crowd fixed upon them, the representative of France accosted the King of Prussia. Was he instructed to dispense with the ordinary forms of diplomatic intercourse? Or was the disregard of ceremony so painfully remarkable in his behaviour a blunder inadvertently committed by Count Benedetti, not an insult designedly planned and ordered by his Government? On an occasion of such vital importance it is difficult to believe that proper respect is waived except by design. However that may be, the King, finding an exorbitant demand put to him in a most unbecoming manner, had to deal with the fact of the offence, not to examine into its cause. He acquitted himself of the duty of the moment in the dignified and gentlemanly style for which he is noted. Quietly turning round to his adjutant, Lieutenant Count Lehndorf, who had retired a few steps when he saw the Ambassador approach, the King said:—"Be kind enough to inform Count Benedetti that there is no reply, and that I cannot receive him again." While Count Lehndorff was doing his bidding the King walked off. The gay crowd around stood aghast. They had seen enough to know that something serious must have happened; yet they were not prepared for the stunning reports that soon began to fly about.

It was announced on Sunday that the Emperor's departure for the army was certain, and that he would be accompanied by the Imperial Prince. The despatch of troops to the frontier begun on Saturday, and was actively continued on Sunday and Monday. The Duc de Gramont informed Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador, and Baron Beyens, the Minister of Belgium, that France will respect, even strategically, Belgian neutrality. At the reception on Sunday of the Senate by the Emperor at St. Cloud, M. Rouher, addressing his Majesty, said:—"The guarantees demanded from Prussia have been refused, and the dignity of France has been disregarded. Your Majesty draws the sword, and the country is with you, trembling with indignation at the excesses that an ambition over excited by one day's good fortune was sure, sooner or later, to produce. Your Majesty was able to wait, but has occupied the last four years in perfecting the armament and the organization of the army." The Emperor replied:—"Messieurs les Sénateurs,—I was gratified to learn with what great enthusiasm the Senate received the declaration which the Minister of Foreign Affairs had been instructed to make. Whenever great interests and the honour of France are at stake I am sure to receive energetic support from the Senate. We are beginning a serious struggle, and France needs the co-operation of all her children. I am very glad that the first patriotic utterance has come from the Senate. It will be loudly re-echoed throughout the country."

War loans have been assented to by the French Legislative Body with the greatest readiness. Volunteers have enlisted in France by thousands, and the same eagerness to take part in the struggle is manifested throughout Germany. The plan of the French campaign, according to the *Liberté*, is to make a rapid advance into Hesse, in order to neutralise the South German States, occupy and fortify Frankfort, sweep the Prussian territory on the left bank of the Rhine, then enter Westphalia, and, being supported by Hanover and Denmark, drive the Prussians beyond the Elbe, and subsequently, as after the battle of Friedland, reconstruct the German Confederation, to the exclusion of Austria and Prussia. The King of Prussia, on Monday, in answer to an address presented to his Majesty by the town councillors of Berlin, thanking him for having repelled the unheard of attempt made upon the dignity and independence of the nation. and asserting that, France having declared war against Prussia, every man will do his duty, replied, expressing his gratitude for the sentiments contained in the address, and said:—"God knows I am not answerable for this war. The demand sent me I could not do otherwise than reject. My reply gained the approval of all the towns and provinces, the expression of which I have received from all parts of Germany, and even from Germans residing beyond the seas. The greeting which was given me here on Friday last animated me with pride and confidence. Heavy sacrifices will be demanded of my people. We have been rendered unaccustomed to them by the quickly gained victories which we achieved in the last two wars. We shall not get off so cheaply this time, but I know what I may expect from my army, and from those now hastening to join the ranks. The instrument is sharp and cutting; the result is in the hands of God. I know also what I may expect from those who are called upon to alleviate the wounds, the pains, and sufferings which war entails. In conclusion, I beg you to express my sincere thanks to the citizens for the reception they have given me." Germans in England, the United States, and in all parts of the world, have expressed their enthusiastic sympathy with the cause in which their country is engaged to fight. Sweden and Norway declare neutrality. The French Government sent on Sunday a threatening message to the South German Governments, demanding that they should forward, within twenty-four hours, a declaration whether they intend to remain neutral.

King William opened the North German Parliament in person on Tuesday. In his speech from the throne his Majesty observed that at their last meeting he welcomed them in the name of the Allied Governments, and congratulated them on the peace of Europe. Now the menace and imminence of war had rendered necessary an extraordinary session, and he assured them that all had been done to improve the efficiency of the national forces, which had now to be called on to defend their independence. The candidature of a German Prince to the throne of Spain was only of indirect interest to the Germans, but it had afforded to the Emperor of the French a pretext for a *casus belli*, preferred in a manner unprecedented in diplomatic intercourse, and adhered to after the removal of the pretext itself. The only parallel was to be found in the annals of the First Napoleon. Germany in her divided state might submit to insult, but united as at present, her armament left no opening to an enemy, and it was no arrogance to say, she had power to repel French aggression, though victory and defeat were in the hands of God. The appeal of Dr. Simeon for cheers for the Head of the North German Confederation, was thrice frantically responded to. It is understood that before the end of the present week 350,000 French soldiers will be assembled between Strasburg, Metz, Nancy, and Birtsch. Public subscriptions for the relief of the families of soldiers, for supplying comforts to the soldiers on service, and to succour the wounded, are coming in liberally from all parts of France. Queen Victoria's proclamation of Neutrality was published on Thursday evening, and on the same day Earl Granville addressed to the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty, instructions for the due maintenance and enforcement of neutrality regulations on the seas.

The French and North German fleets were reported at sea on Tuesday night, when it was announced that the blockade of the Elbe had been resolved upon. There appeared then every reason to expect that the French would succeed in closing the German ports. French men-of-war were seen off the Humber, the Tyne, and the Wear, taking measures to prevent the escape of the Prussian merchantmen from those English ports. At Schweningen, at 1-30 on Tuesday afternoon, cannonading could be heard at sea to the North by North-west.

On Wednesday morning the unexpected announcement was made that Denmark would be actively engaged on the side of France.

To the Corps Legislatif on Wednesday, the Duc de Gramont announced the notification to the Prussian Government of the resolution of France "to seek, by force of arms, the guarantees we have not been able to obtain by discussion."

The Crown Prince of Prussia assumes the Command-in-Chief of the Germany army of the South. Saxony joins Prussia. The reported alliance of Denmark with France is denied. Austria is, at present, neutral.

An Act of Paliament has just been issued for the protection of inventions at international exhibitions in the United Kingdom. The statute has reference to that now being held, and also to other similar displays to be held next year.

The total number of telegrams despatched and received in Austria during the month of April last was 238,524, which is 59,068 more than those despatched, &c. in April, 1869. Of those received, 167,464 were private telegrams, and 2,125 Government telegrams; 33,342 private telegrams and and 97 Government telegrams were despatched, and 35,506 were transmitted.

THE GREAT HEAT IN NEW YORK.—A correspondent writing from New York on the 2nd instant says: "A very sudden and remarkable depression of the temperature yesterday brought to an end a torrid term of unusual duration and intensity, even in this climate of fierce extremes. Eight successive days, in which the mercury stood in the nineties, had almost demoralised the inhabitants of this great sweltering city. The heat was absolutely baking. Men gave up shirt collars in despair. All business operations were more or less paralysed by the intolerable sun glare. It was the tropics without the siesta. Trade flourished only in fans and iced drinks, and at every soda fountain there was a long queue of panting applicants throughout the day. The one remarkable fact connected with this great access of heat was that during the whole week New York was hotter than any other city in the United States, hotter even by three to seven degrees than Havannah.

EXTRAORDINARY PETROLEUM FIRE.—A remarkable conflagration recently occurred near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, U.S. In a suburb called Sharpsburg, along the bank of the Alleghany river, are numerous pretroleum refineries, with oil-tanks, buildings, and all the accessories of that important business. About 2 p.m. a heavy thunder storm passed over Sharpsburg, and at half-past 2 the lightning struck simultaneously two 20,000 barrel oil-tanks. They caught fire, fell to pieces, and the burning pretroleum flowed in all directions, along the roads, railways, sewers, kennels, and the Alleghany river bank, while the river itself was covered in that portion nearest Sharpsburg. One man was burnt to death, and the bridge across the Alleghany was destroyed. Hundreds of people had to flee for their lives, for cellars were quickly filled with burning oil, and the neighbouring buildings destroyed. At least 500,000 dollars worth of property is said to have been burnt.

LUXURIANT AND BEAUTIFUL HAIR.—A guarantee goes with every bottle of Mrs. S. A. ALLEN'S WORLD'S HAIR RESTORER, that it will quickly restore grey or faded hair to its original youthful colour and beauty. It stops the hair from falling off. It prevents baldness. It promotes luxuriant growth. No other preparation will produce the same beneficial results. Only in large bottles, 6s. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers. Depot, 266, High Holborn, London. Also Mrs. ALLEN'S ZYLOBALSAMUM (a Separate Preparation), the best hairdressing known—makes the hair soft and glossy, and retains it in any desired position. [648

NEWS OF THE MIDLANDS.

The book of Ferdinand Hiller's dramatic cantata, "Nal und Damajanti," to be produced at the Birmingham Musical Festival, on the 1st of September, has been written by Frau Dr. Sophie Hasenclever.

The Recordership of Bedford, vacated by the death of Mr. Keane, Q.C., has been conferred on Mr. J. T. Abdy, of the Norfolk Circuit, Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University or Cambridge.

The trial of the Fenians, Davett and Wilson, known as the "Birmingham Fenians," which commenced on Friday, at the Central Criminal Court, was concluded on Tuesday evening, having occupied the Court for four days. The prisoners were found guilty and sentenced—Davett to fifteen, Wilson to seven years' penal servitude.

THE BIRMINGHAM PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.—The members of this association and their friends celebrated the "Twelfth of July" by an excursion to Mancetter, near Atherstone, where a pic-nic was held. The Rev. B. Richings kindly welcomed the party, and showed them many interesting relics of the days of the Reformation. The party also visited the Manor House, whose history is intimately associated with the Protestant struggles of three hundred years ago. In the evening tea was provided, and after having passed votes of thanks to the Rev. B. Richings for his kindness to the party, to Mr. J. Woodroffe for accepting the post of additional honorary secretary, and to Mr. T. H. Aston, hon. sec., for arranging the excursion, the party returned to Birmingham. The excursion was regarded as a very pleasant and satisfactory one.

BIRMINGHAM RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.—On Saturday evening the Rifle Volunteer Corps (First Warwickshire) paraded in undress uniform at Bingley Hall, and marched, under the command of Lieut-Colonel Charles Ratcliff, accompanied by the regimental and drum and fife bands, to Calthorpe Park, for field exercise. There were ten companies, numbering in all about 520 men. On arriving at the Park, after piling arms, the men were formed into line, and marched by in quick and double-quick time. They were then put through the usual exercises, including manual and platoon, by Major Hebbert and Major Tarte, acting-Adjutant. The battalion then went through a variety of field movements, in which ten rounds of blank cartridge that had been supplied to each member were used in firing three volleys by companies, two by wings, and skirmishing. The drill on the whole was very good. At about half-past eight o'clock the battalion returned to the hall, where they were dismissed. A large number of people assembled in the Park to witness the evolutions.

THE FLUTTERING OF THE TOURISTS.—The declaration of war has induced great activity in travelling amongst private families, who are hastening home from all parts of the continent. The result has been a great influx of Americans as well as of English into our principal towns and watering places. In Birmingham, for example, where we have had to bid farewell to a good many German friends hastening home to bear their part in the strife, we have been in some degree compensated by the not unwelcome presence of many sojourners whose home is in the United States. The Great Western Hotel in this town is quite full of American families, driven hither by stress of war, or attracted by the interest which intelligent and active-minded persons feel in the great business activity and manufacturing enterprise of the Midlands. From the Langham Hotel in London we also hear of large arrivals of Americaus. The house is kept by a Colonel in the American army; but there must be something more than national affinity to account for the fact that last week no fewer than eighty persons, on their arrival in Liverpool, stayed not a day at the great seaport, but set out at once by train for the metropolis, and took up their quarters at the Langham Hotel.

BIRMINGHAM MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—According to the revised programme of the Festival to commence on the 30th of August, the principal artists will be as follows:—Vocalists—Madlle. Titiens, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne, and Madlle. Ilma di Murska, Madame Patey, Madlle. Drasdill, Messrs. Sims Reeves, Vernon Rigby, W. H. Cummings, and Santley, and Signor Foli. Instrumentalists:—Madame Arabella Goddard, M. Sainton, and Mr. Stimpson. The Festival will open on Tuesday morning with a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah." The other morning performances will be Costa's "Naaman" on Wednesday, the "Messiah" on Thursday, and Benedict's new oratorio "St. Peter," composed expressly for this Festival, and Mozart's "Requeim" on Friday. The evening concerts will include on Tuesday Barnett's new cantata, "Paradise and the Peri," composed expressly for this Festival, and a miscellaneaus selection; on Wednesday a new instrumental work by Mr. A. S. Sullivan, and a choral ode by Dr. Stewart, both composed expressly for this Festival, to be followed by a selection from the works of Beethoven; on Thursday a new cantata "Nala and Damayanti," composed expressly for this Festival by Dr. Ferdinand Hiller, and a miscellaneous selection; and on Friday evening Handel's "Samson." The President is the Earl of Bradford; the conductor, as usual, Sir Michael Costa.

IMPORTANT.—14, Carr's Lane, Birmingham. Established 1861, for the sale of Pure Tea. Connoisseurs pronounce the Tea sold at this Warehouse superior to any that can be obtained elsewhere. Twenty-five per cent saved in value. [537

THE MIDLAND FAVOURITE.—A Lasting and Refreshing Summer Perfume for the Handkerchief.—Prepared only by A. Court, Chemist, 35, Bull Street, Birmiugham. Established 1790. [676

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.—Are you broken in your rest by a sick child suffering with the pain of cutting teeth? Go at once to a chemist, and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor sufferer immediately: it is perfectly harmless: it produces natural quiet sleep, by relieving the child from pain, and the little cherub awakes "as bright as a button." It is very pleasant to take; it soothes the child, it softens the gums, allays all pain, relieves wind, regulates the bowels, and is the best known remedy for dysentery and diarrhœa, whether arising from teething or other causes.—Sold by all medicine vendors at 1s. 1½d. per bottle. [694

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—The extraordinary range of temperature prevailing in our climate is extremely trying to the delicate-chested, the weak and nervous. All troubled by these afflictions should resolve to resort to this strengthening and regulating medicine immediately they perceive in themselves discomfort or that feeling of restlessness which betokens disordered digestion aud defective secretion of bile. One of Holloway's Pills taken about noon and followed at bed-time by a dose sufficiently large to act aperiently will speedily recruit the faulty functions, and restore order throughout the whole system. A treatment so safe in operation and so successful in result should be known and practised when, from cold and sundry other causes, disease is attempting to gain a vexatious footing. [563

PARLIAMENT.

The provincial morning papers had an advantage over those printed in London last Friday. They were able to give a report, however brief, of the adjournment of the House of Commons on the previous night, for they generally go to press later than their metropolitan contemporaries. The London gallery reporters resorted to a little subterfuge at the conclusion of their reports. The *Times* report finished thus: "The Committee was prolonged with the defeated divisions till about four o'clock, when the House adjourned." The *Telegraph* said: "The House adjourned at a late hour this morning." The last words in the *Standard* were: "After another division the House adjourned at half-past four." All these reports were incorrect. They failed to convey to the readers information of the fact that it was ten minutes past five before the adjournment of the House, after a formal motion had been put by the Chairman and adopted for putting out the gas, (rendered quite unnecessary by the blazing morning sunlight) and the announcement was made that the Education Bill had at that late hour actually passed through Committee and got itself reported. All this was in the Birmingham morning papers, and the information was diffused over the Midland Counties some hours before the London journals, with their imperfect report, arrived. We have no recollection of a previous instance of the House sitting so late as ten minutes past five o'clock in the morning. It was a very important night in both Houses.

The House of Peers once more threw out the Universities Tests' Bill, the majority being led by the intrepid Marquis of Salisbury. Many readers of Parliamentary reports will remember the episode of last Session, when the Bill known by the same title was rejected by the Lords under the same leader, upon which Sir J. D. Coleridge, in his place in the Lower House, spoke in great anger, and declared that the Lords would have to swallow a bitterer pill next Session. The Bill thrown out on this occasion was the "pill" referred to in the Solicitor-General's threat. It was a much more "advanced" measure than that of last session. A speech, acknowleged by all to have been one of great power and eloquence, was made in favour of the Bill before the division last week by one who was not a Member of the House last year: Dr. Temple, Bishop of Exeter. The drift of his speech is contained in this brief abstract:—"These tests are in reality more hampering than helping. There is no question that the atmosphere of truth is freedom, and that it is quite inconsistent with narrowness and exclusiveness. If you will only remove the tests, I for one have no fear of what can be done by the Church of England. I have no fear that any infidel propagandism would prevail against the power that will be there to meet it." The Bishop of Oxford and the Archbishop of York were on Bishop Temple's side in the discussion. The Marquis of Salisbury, however, carried his amendments by 97 against 83. These were the amendments:—

1. That in any measure for enabling persons not members of the Church of England to hold offices to which they are not now eligible in the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin, and the colleges and halls in the universities, it is essential to provide by law proper safeguards for the maintenance of religious instruction and worship, and for the religious character of the education to be given therein. 2. That a committee be appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the best mode of giving effect to the foregoing resolution."

In the Lower House that night—we are still on the night of the exceptionally late sitting—the Premier stated that the Government were not insensible of the question of having for the Prince of Wales a residence in Ireland, but no proposal on the subject would be made to Parliament this session. In answer to a question about the European quarrel, Mr. Gladstone, in a very covert manner, conveyed the impression that the Government had, in its negociations, refused to commit itself to an expression of approval of the conduct of France up to that date (which was previous to the declaration of war). Then came on the Education Bill for the last time in Committee, and amendments, for the most part ineffectual, occupied the Committee for several hours. The event of the evening was the motion of Sir C. Dilke, for the election of the Education Board by ballot, to which Mr. Forster acceded on condition that it be for one year only, as an experiment. The question was hotly debated, and the point was at length carried, by 234 to 155 votes. Afterwards, as we have intimated, in broad daylight on Friday morning, the business of the Committee came to an end.

On Friday night two questions occupied very much the attention of the two Houses. The first, of course, was the declaration of war. In the House of Lords not very much was said on the subject. In answer to Lord Malmesbury the Earl of Granville expressed his grief at the announcement of a declaration of war, and promised to lay the papers on the table. Mr. Disraeli, in the Lower House, insisted upon presenting considerations of great importance respecting the relation of Great Britain to the contending parties, the object of his remarks being to show that the country, by the part it took in the settlement of the last difference between France and Prussia, had a peculiar claim to be heard by both parties now. Mr. Gladstone's reply consisted of an assurance that the Government had done its utmost to prevent war, and that its offices in that direction would not be relaxed. The other question of importance was the reported cession of Gambia to the French. On this matter assurances were given in both Houses that the cession would not take place without the consent of Parliament, but Mr. Monsell confessed that Government contemplated asking Parliament for its sanction to the cession. The Peers, the same night, considered the Commons' amendments to the Lords' amendments on the Irish Land Bill. A few of the Lords' amendments were insisted on; one was to allow the landlord to set off against compensation certain arrears of rent, &c., and the other was as to the permissive registration of improvements.

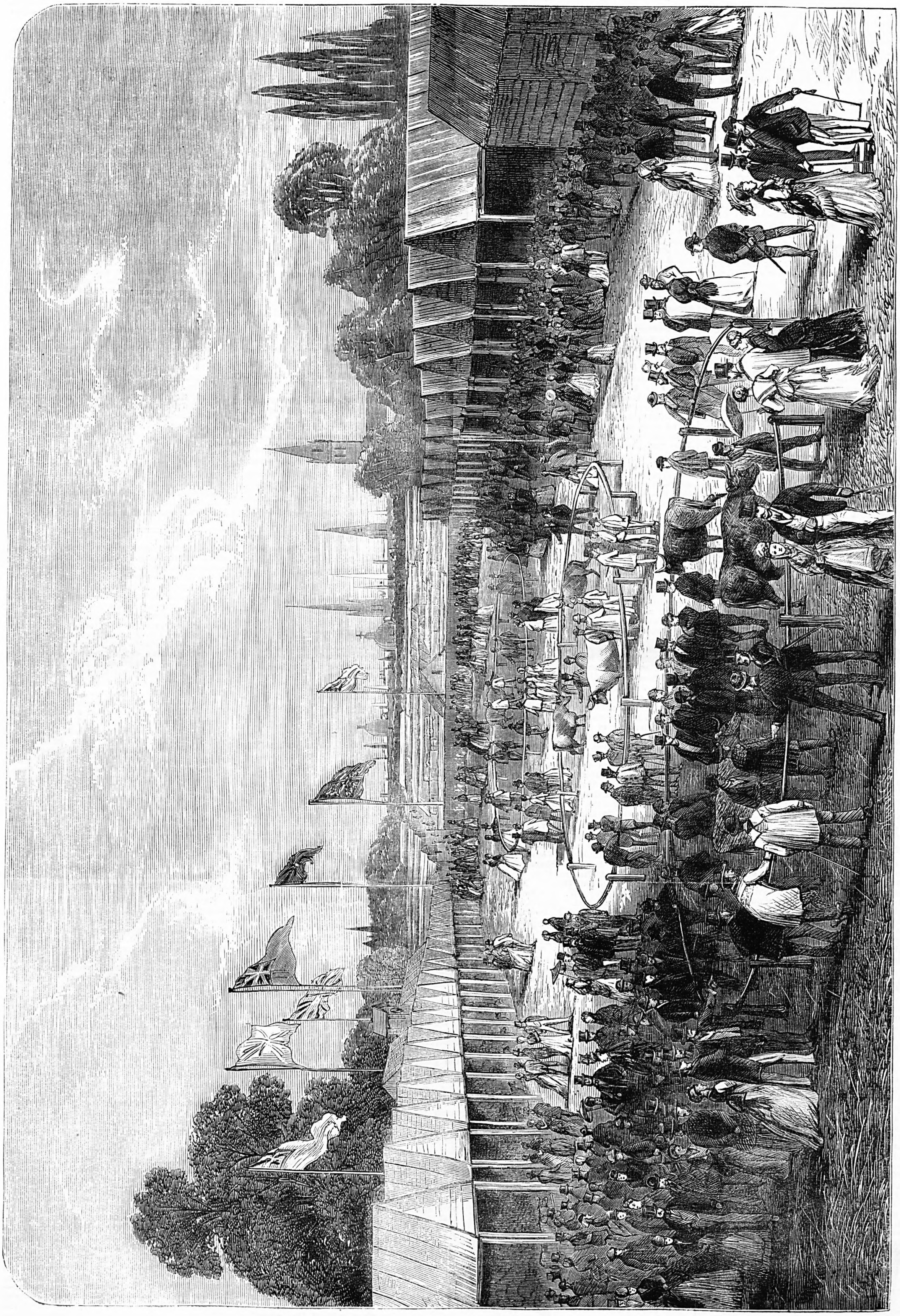
The war was discussed in both Houses on Monday night. Lord Granville declared the intention of Government to introduce a measure giving them increased power to maintain our neutrality by preventing vessels from leaving our ports in time of war; he also stated that he had done everything possible to avert war, and that her Majesty would immediately issue a proclamation of neutrality. Mr. Gladstone's statement in the Lower House was to the same effect. In the Upper House the Married Women's Property Bill went through committee with only verbal amendments, and the Life Assurance Companies Bill and the Judicial Committee Bill were read a second time. Mr. Gladstone, in the House of Commons, expressed a hope that means might yet be found to carry the Universities' Tests Bill this session. In the Gun Licenses Bill, which was reported to the House, an amendment was made exempting from the Gun Tax persons engaged in target practice.

On Tuesday night the Peers dropped the Irish Bankrupt Law Amendment Bill, for want of time to carry it through. They read a second time the Bill to grant a loan to New Zealand for Public Works, &c. The same evening the Queen's answer to an address of the House of Commons was read, giving a guarantee that no public office shall be erected on that portion of the Thames Embankment reserved for the Crown, without the consent of Parliament. It will be remembered that the address in question was adopted by Parliament in defiance of the opposition of the Government. The Civil Service Clerks were given to understand, by the Home Secretary, that no extra day's holiday could be given them next Christmas because of the 25th of December falling on the Sunday. The Education Bill, as amended in committee, was considered, and one important alteration was made, rendering the ratepayers, and not the Town Council, the electors in towns of the School Boards. The consideration of the Bill was not got through with on Tuesday.

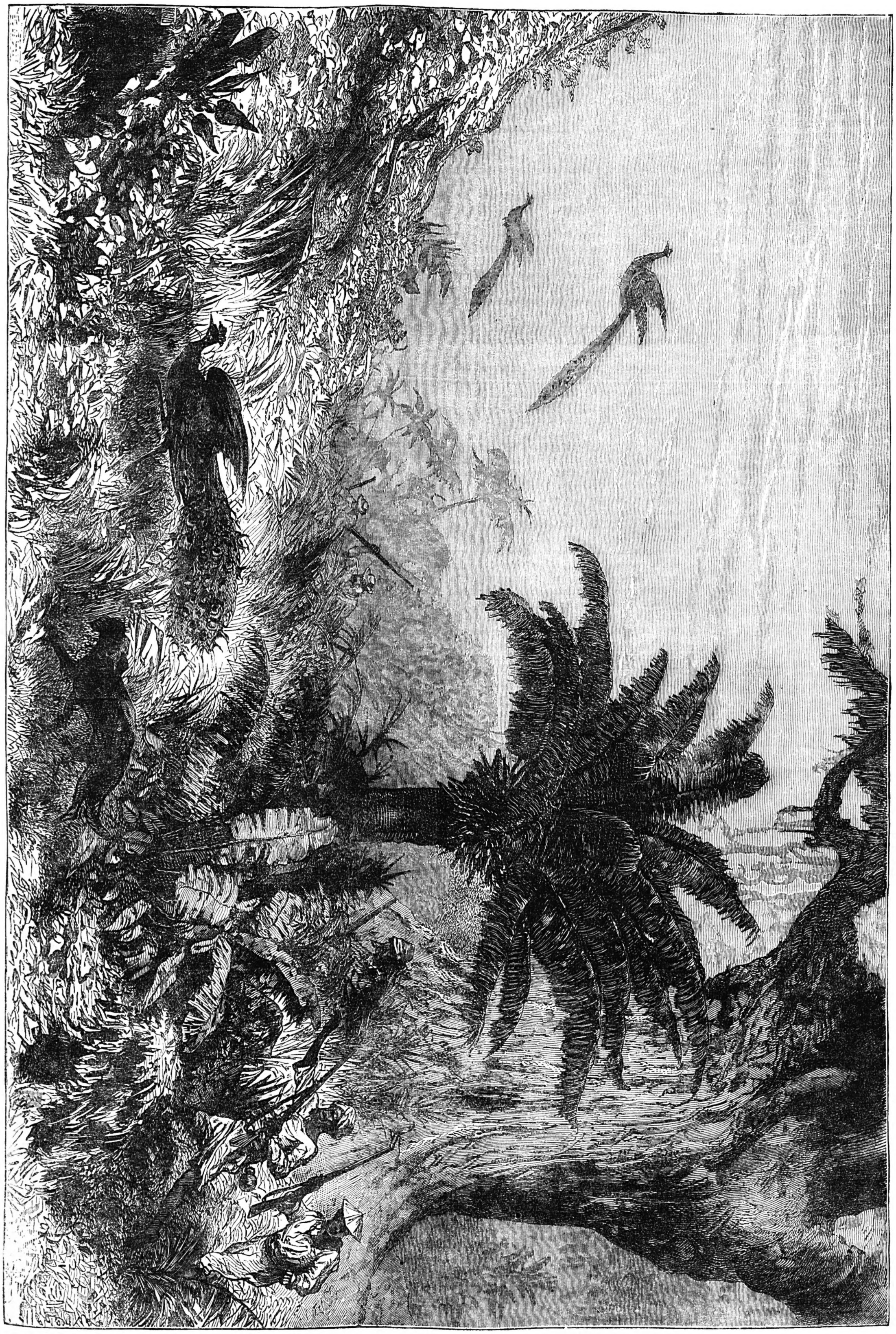
On Wednesday afternoon in the House of Commons Mr. P. Taylor's Game Laws Abolition Bill, on the second reading, was thrown out by a large majority. After that the Contagious Diseases Bill came on once more for discussion, and again the reporters were compelled to retire from the gallery on the motion of Mr. Crawford. The House arrived at no decision on the Bill.

A HIPPOPOTAMUS IN THE SEINE.—In consequence of the long drought the reservoirs and basins of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris contain only a little stagnant water, quite insufficient for the needs of some of its guests. It therefore has become nesessary to allow the hippopotamus to bathe every day in the Seine. A car drawn by two horses conducts the amphibious beast to the river bank, and with a strong chain attached to its neck he is allowed to enjoy his pastime without being able to evade the watchfulness of his keepers. One day last week, however, the hippopotamus, strengthened no doubt by his daily exercise, succeeded by a vigourous effort, in breaking one of the rings of his chain and gained his liberty, frightening all the bathers in the vicinity, who hurried back to the shore. The playful African then paid a visit to a passenger steamer which was just starting, and whose crew received him with loud shouts, but without taking notice of them he left the steamer and went to a small washing-barge, which he lifted up and shook, to the great terror of the women on board. He finished his "promenade" by an excursion to the "Etablissement de Bains" at the Pont d'Austerlitz, which was deserted in the twinkling of an eye. Meanwhile some fifty boats had been sent in pursuit. Many of his keepers even took to the water, as he had done, but they could get no hold on his slippery hide, and when one of them managed to climb upon him he disengaged himself by taking a dive. At last, after more than an hour's labour, they succeeded in seizing the end of the chain, which was made fast to a strong line, and the hippopotomus was restored to his usual domocile.

NEW PROCESS OF CASTING METALS.—On Saturday a number of gentlemen from London, Manchester, and Liverpool met at the works of the Lancashire Engineering and Compression Casting Company, St. Helen's Junction, on the Manchester and Liverpool line of railway, to witness the new process of casting, in brass and iron, chased and embossed work of the most elaborate description. The process, which was here for the first time exhibited in England, is an American invention, and its utility was shown to consist in this—that any design, whether in high or low relief, chased on metal of any required pattern or shape, whether flat as a door plate or round as a vase, can be reproduced by castings from it *an infinitum*, and each casting will show upon it all the sharpness and beauty of the original chasing. Moulds are made with a preparation of fine clay from the articles to be reproduced. The making of one of these moulds takes a person from five to ten minutes. The moulds have then to stand twenty-four hours to air dry, after which they are baked in a furnace for eight hours. These clay moulds, into which the metal is afterwards poured, are to all intents and purposes encaustic tiles. These clay moulds are placed in a box, and the air is extracted from them so as to form a vacuum, after which the molten metal is forced into them, and in this way in ten minutes a casting can be completed. When the casting is taken out, the design, however intricate, is found to be perfectly represented, with the exception of removing a slight surface of clay from it which can be done in half an hour, and the article is then ready to be sent to the bronzer, instead of having to be kept from a fortnight to a month in the chaser's hands. In this way an enormous amount of cost and labour on ornamental articles in metal is saved. As illustrations of the utility of the invention, various finely-chased articles of room furniture—such as finger-plates, door-knobs, bell-pulls, and castings for inlaid cabinet-work, were cast in the presence of the visitors, and when taken out these articles were found to possess all the delicacy and beauty of the designs from which the moulds had been made. The process was pronounced by all present to be a complete success.



THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY AT OXFORD: THE CATTLE RINGS. *(See page 50.)*



SHOOTING PEACOCKS IN INDIA. *(See page 58.)*

THE A.B.C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.

BEING A COMPLETE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE ORNAMENTAL ART OF THE WORLD IN ALL AGES.

ROMAN.

A perversion or rather exaggeration of the weakest characteristics of the Roman style of Ornament is unfortunately very prevalent at the present day. If we examine many of the designs for chandeliers, or any ornamental brass or iron-work whatever, it will be found that human figures, heads, and the figures of animals are introduced indiscriminately without any regard being paid to their fitness or consistency with the remaining portions of the decoration. The bust of a female is a favourite embellishment for the termination of the curved lines of a gas-tube; or the head and neck of a swan are supposed to be a graceful ornament of the same subject. Occasionally some really artistic feeling will be evinced in the most trivial instance, such as for example, the designs for window bars or iron fretwork. Such feeling is irrepressible and must find expression in whatever the true artist undertakes. Nothing is more difficult than to lay down rules by which it shall be regulated Judgment is the only guide, and judgment must be guided by experience. Taste is so far innate that it depends much upon the special organisation of the individual, but otherwise it must be cultivated ere it can be thoroughly developed and reliable. It has been wisely said that taste is knowledge. The author of this eloquent and significant epigram further observes that no man was ever born with an originality and maturity of judgment which would enable him to pronounce an accurate opinion upon the merits of any truly great production of art without previous study. Taste, then, is something to be acquired. To acquire it there is a necessity that you should have been endowed by nature with a sense of the Beautiful, and of its various gradations and kinds. It is true that different men may have different preferences, and that each individual will designate the objects of his predilection by the term Beautiful. This difference of inclination may arise from many circumstances. But there is a generally-admitted taste amongst all persons of well-regulated minds, and of sufficient experience and education, who for the most part agree upon the grade of preference which should be assigned to all those things which can be submitted to rule and to the test of common sense—the latter being the most important although the least applied criterion of all. And if a perfect uniformity of opinion cannot be obtained even on this point, it arises from the differences of passions and the prejudices of habit. These remarks, so applicable to our subject, are quoted from an invaluable small book called "The Handbook of Taste," published in 1843, and attributed to the graceful pen of Lady Eastlake. Before judging the works of others, more important still is it that you should be able to criticise your own. And this must be done impartially—a matter often more difficult to accomplish than the work itself. Favouritism in this respect has even more pernicious effect than the injudicious flattery of friends. It begets mannerism and impedes progress. Every design invented should be studiously compared and contrasted with examples afforded us by the most classical authorities. We do not by this advice wish to advocate slavish imitation of any master in any particular style; such a means of forming taste by acquiring knowledge, although frequently adopted, is undoubtedly erroneous. Even as in copying nature, it is the spirit of the original that should inspire you—the motive, and all the causes of the effect produced must be studied, rather than lines themselves. According to this method should all Art be judged, ancient as well as modern. Furthermore it should not be forgotten that age does not bring excellence. Nevertheless this is a mistake often made. We are prone to admire some specimens of Art simply because they are old. Many artists are genuine antiquarians at heart. But the student who seeks experience only among the ancients falls into greater error than he who is too readily contented with his own doings. If taste be knowledge it must be liberally acquired.

The defects of the antique should be as apparent as the shortcomings of any work by a contemporary. Thus the blemishes of the Roman style should be acknowledged and certainly not so frequently reproduced as they are now, merely because the examples in which they originally exist belong to an obsolete school. Such eclecticism is in every respect mistaken.

(To be Continued.)

Policeman Chas. Waite, 32, Hosier Lane, Smithfield, says Dec. 18, 1868.—"Last June, my left knee swelled and pained me so I could not use it. My physician treated me for rheumatism, and in three weeks pronounced it cured. But as soon as I went on duty the pain and swelling returned, laying me up nearly four months. I then, as advised, tried Davis's Pain Killer, and in four days went on duty, and have been well ever since,'

THE SILVERDALE COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

Of the perils and catastrophes of labour the Midland Counties have more than their share, yet our men go about their work without sense of danger, and almost reckless in their unbelief in the likelihood of falling victims to disasters similar to those by which so many of their fellow toilers have been stricken down. By recent reports of the inspectors of mines we are told that a very large proportion of these accidents are due to utter want of care and precaution on the part of the workmen. Our artist has made a sketch of the scene of the recent explosion at Silverdale Colliery. Except for the picture he has drawn of the poor fellow brought up from the shaft, and of the sorrowing women gathering round, there is no sign above ground of the calamity that occurred within the mine. The explosion took place in the Sherriff Pit, at Silverdale, belonging to Messrs. Stanier. Of thirty men at work in the mine nineteen were killed. Those who heard the explosion and proceeded to the spot found the airways, roads, and workings blocked up with rubbish dislodged by the explosion, and in many places it was necessary to excavate a passage. After opening the airways and restoring the ventilation, the explorers went on and found five bodies. By that time they were exhausted, and had to return, one man having to be carried out, overcome by after-damp. After a brief interval the explorers again returned to work, and remained in the pit all night until late in the morning, working their way through the obstructions, and searching for the bodies of the dead. They succeeded in opening the whole of the roads, and recovered 13 bodies. They also ascertained the position of some of the remaining six, who were most of them buried beneath ruins dislodged from the roof and walls. Two of the men were working in a new row when the explosion come, and they had no chance to escape, while others, hearing the report, ran away to get out of the way, and were met in their flight by fire and damp, and killed. An inquest was opened on the bodies and adjourned several times. At the close of the evidence, after the summing up of the coroner, the jury consulted together for half an hour, and found, in their verdict, that the deceased were killed by an explosion of gas, but how the explosion was caused there was no evidence to show. They considered, however, that the return air-way was too small for the extent of the workings, and recommended that it should be enlarged.

PEACOCK-SHOOTING IN INDIA.

Among us the peacock is a distinguished guest, but in India he is at home. His graceful form and gorgeous plumes harmonize with exotic vegetation and gigantic trees. Under the blazing sun of Eastern lands, on the northern skirts of the equator, the rich patches of colour on his wonderful tail glitter like gems and shimmer under the eye like phosphorescent rays. A single peacock is an ornament to our garden, but there they abound in vast flocks. English sportsmen can form some idea of the feeling with which the Indian, or the Anglo-Indian, goes out to fill his bag with these brilliant birds. A peacock is a handsome prize to any man's gun, and surely it must be an easy shot; but the work must be very warm, and a Worcestershire or Leicestershire squire, before he had followed the bright plumage for half-a-day, would wish he were doing a brown September morning among the partridges at home. The peacock-shooting in our picture, on page 57, is rather a matter of business than of sport. A dog beats the bush on one side and men on the other, and the marksmen take the birds on the rise. A very poor shot must he be who could not bring down one of those beautiful creatures sailing so smoothly through the air. The peacock is thought to be good eating in the East, but for sport and for the table peacock-shooting in India must yield the palm to an autumn day in an English cover and a smoking pheasant for supper.

SAD YEARS.

What do I owe the years, that I should bring
Green leaves to crown them king?
Brown, barren sands, the thistle and the brier,
Dead love, and mocked desire,
And sorrow, vast and pitiless as the sea:
These are their gifts to me.

What do I owe the years, that I should love
And sing the praise thereof?
Perhaps the lark's clear carol wakes with morn,
And winds, amid the corn,
Clash fairy cymbals; but I miss the joys,
Missing the tender voice—
Sweet as a throstle after April rain—
That may not sing again.

HAYDN'S ANDANTE.

[I have a pleasant fancy for telling to myself little scraps of stories and imaginary little pictures "when I hear sweet music." These verses are in this way the offspring of Haydn's Andante.]

I.

Her hands were laid in mine,
And the calm of my heart was deep,
As we sat in the summer twilight,
In a quiet like that of sleep.

II.

Like a ship on a waveless ocean,
Under tenderest sapphire skies,
My dreaming fancy floated
Down the depths of her gentle eyes.

III.

As 'twere under a haze of moonlight
The shares of her thought gleam'd fair,
And statues to loyalest duty,
And temples to love were there.

IV.

And heart and soul went dreaming
Down innermost ways of bliss,
Till she cast her arms about me,
And broke the dream with a kiss.

D. Christie.

THE WORKING MEN'S EXHIBITION AT HULL.

The working men of Hull, not to be behind other centres of industry, determined, in 1869, to hold an exhibition, to take place in the latter end of the year, and to consist of objects of art, industry, and general interest—so their prospectus specifies. It was scarcely to be expected that working men alone could create much interest by their unaided efforts, considering the many disadvantages they would labour under. They must depend in a great measure, to create any outside interest, on their wealthier neighbours. However, they were met by the principal men of the town, who encouraged them so far by amalgamating with them, and the Corporation granted them free a piece of ground for the building, the Mayor kindly presiding at the Town Hall, the proceeds to be given to the town charities. The building was decided to be opened in the following year, so that time might be given for the formation of a really good collection. It was opened on June 20th, the central hall measuring some 150ft. by 50ft There is a capital picture gallery attached, machinery, natural history, and antiquarian departments, and refreshments rooms, with moderate charges. In the Central Hall are placed two good organs, the one at the end lent by Holy Trinity Church. Here the articles exhibited are extremely various—furniture, articles of *vertu*, &c. Some are very interesting, only there creeps in here, perhaps, a little too much of trade interest, and a certain number of inane models, which are calling for coppers to set them in motion. It is to the disadvantage of the working man that these are allowed admittance, tending as they do to diminish a certain proper pride which every working man should have. Being a port, there was much to interest the naval community. Ferns, stuffed birds, animals and reptiles, butterflies, caught in various parts of the world, principally the private treasures of the working man, graced the natural history department. The picture gallery and the antiquarian departments are the best features of the building. In the picture gallery there are specimens of Wouvermans, Bril, Ostade, Vandervelde, Jan Steen, Rembrandt, Murillo, Michael Angelo, Vouet, Watteau, Canaletti, Correggio, Carlo Dolci, Poussin, Angelica Kaupmann, Ary Scheffer, Le Brun, David, and others. Also some vivid sunsets by Kock Kock. There are some good specimens too by English deceased and living artists, David Roberts, Sir A. Calcot, Redmore, Etty, Cooper, Lance, Morris, Gainsborough, Prout, Chaton, Sir J. Thornhill, Sir Godfrey Kneder, Opie, &c., &c. Several old engravings of Rubens's works, served as keys to fair copies of some of that artist's pictures of the series "La Reine." Some works of South Kensington students were exhibited here, and local photographs. The Antiquarian departments show rare old books of local interest and otherwise, China, Egyptian work, Chinese articles, New Zealand curiosities, antique pottery, Abyssinian trophies, old local play bills, newspapers, engravings, lottery handbills, coronation ticket of the Georges, Gretna Green certificate, rubbings from old monuments, relics by dozens of all kinds and from all quarters of the globe: coins, and medals of the Peninsular, Sikh, Crimean, and late Indian wars. An exceeding good collection of autographical interest. It is very rich in quaint deeds and relics of the port. The Machinery department exhibits several models of engines, shipping apparatus, hydraulic rams, &c. Different systems of telegraphing, silk loom, sewing and knitting machines, printing, &c., &c. The silk loom took a fair share of attention, from the delicate mecanhism displayed to make the beautiful Coventry ribbons. Objects outside the building are poor. Other objects of attraction, in the shape of fairy fountains, micrographic dissolving views, illuminated caverns and waterfalls, require another small fee. A pleasant day may easily be spent here, leisurely, quietly, and attentively, as there is no bustle. It certainly deserves a little more patronage than it receives. Only it is to be feared provincial exhibitions are becoming stale, and this one cannot be compared with that held at Leeds; nor can it be expected, as all objects exhibited are lent by the town and neighbourhood.

THE CHASSEPOT AND THE NEEDLE-GUN.

We quote the following interesting article from the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*:—At a time when all civilisation looks with eagerness upon an impending struggle between two mighty nations, in the full consciousness that not to numbers or valour alone, as heretofore, but to the superiority of a military weapon the victory of either party will in all probability be due, we deem no apology needed for making a few remarks upon the needle-guns of France and Prussia.

The "Zündnadelgewehr," or needle-gun of the Prussian service, to which the victories of the Prussian arms in the short and sharp campaign of 1866 has been with justice attributed, appears to have been originally patented in England as a muzzle-loader in 1831, by a Mr. Moser, of Kennington. The invention came before its time; its cold reception in England drove the patentee to seek foreign patronage for his novelty, and Prussia was lucky enough to appreciate and to adopt the new weapon. Dreysa, a gunmaker of Sommala, applied the breech-loading principle to Moser's patent, and, thus amended, the arm, ten years later, was, in 1848, introduced into the Prussian service. The principle, briefly stated, is the driving of a pointed piston or "needle," by the action of a spiral spring (such as is used in the manufacture of children's toy guns) into a small case of fulminate, contained in, and situated between, the powder and the bullet of a single cartridge. In the action of opening the breech, the spiral spring is set by the trigger; and thus the trigger, when pulled, releases into operation this spiral spring, which, in its turn, forces the needle into the cartridge and fires the piece. More fully detailed, the action at the breech may be described as consisting of five separate parts, all comprehended within an open guider, or channel, fixed to the stock of the gun. Within this guider, an iron tube or plunger, moveable by means of a handle projecting from in and securable by certain notches constructed in the guider, forms the first part. Enclosed in this first iron tube is a smaller tube—the second part in the action—and in it again is comprehended a third or needle tube, which contains the needle. When the breech is opened after firing, this third or needle-containing tube is pressed by the action of the two tubes which contain it against the spiral spring, and when this has reached its furthest point of compression, a smaller spring in connection with the trigger clasps the ledge of the needle tube, and holds it fast. The cartridge is inserted and the "guider" closed. The trigger being then pulled, releases the needle tube, behind which is the spiral spring, and this latter at once forces the needle by its tube into the cartridge. Such is an attempt to describe an action comparatively simple, but which needs a diagram in order to be fully understood. Upon this oldest form of the Prussian needle gun, which, as we have seen, came into use as a military arm in 1848, sundry and divers improvements have since that period been made, the chief effects of which have been a reduction of the mechanism of the needle of 1848, and a general lightening of the entire piece. None of these alterations, however, have touched those two apparent evils in the old form of this arm which militated against its adoption by England in 1850. These are, the position of the fulminate in the interior of the cartridge, and the looseness of mechanism, involving possibility of the escape of gas, round the needle and at the base of the plunger.

To these two particular points France mainly devoted herself in seeking a superior needle rifle to that of Prussia. In the Chassepot such an improved arm has been found. A triple wad of vulcanized india-rubber placed round the axis of its plunger, and forming with a steel-plate a cushion to receive the force of the rebound, is intended to render the breech gas-tight, but has been found in practice only partially adapted to that object. An ingenious arrangement of notches on the outer guider of iron, before described, enables the gun to be placed at half-cock. The needle is lighter and smaller than in the Prussian gun, and, above all, the cartridge contains its fulminate at the base of the powder, instead of at the base of the bullet. A vacuum, left when the gun is charged, between the base of the cartridge and the front of the plunger, is intended to effect the combustion and removal of any portion of the cartridge-case that may remain after firing. As compared with the Prussian gun, this weapon possesses, besides the specific improvements we have mentioned, other advantages of superior manufacture and finish.

Its cartridge, besides admitting the altogether different principle of firing, which we have noticed, contains a larger charge of powder than the Prussian cartridge, with a smaller bullet, which leaves a manifest advantage in carrying to the French weapon; while the fact that the Prussian bullet is purposely made so small as not to touch the barrel in its passage, while the French bullet is of the ordinary size to fit the rifle barrel, would point to the conclusion that the Prussian marksman is at a disadvantage over the Frenchman in respect to his aim. The number of times of firing per minute is about the same in both cases. The cost of the French weapon considerably exceeds that of the Prussian, and the Chassepot is, in addition, a more difficult gun to make.

We give these few statistics to our readers in order that they may form their own conclusions as to how far the "chances of the war" may be modified by facts connected with the weapons that will be used in the forthcoming contest. For our own part, we unhesitatingly give the advantage in point of military arm to the Chassepot of France. It remains to be seen whether the statistics of carnage will justify our choice.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Ericsson, the famous Swedish engineer, now residing in America, is known to have been of late devoting his ingenuity to the utilization of direct solar heat as a motive power. At present all our prime movers, with but one exception—that of the tides—are derived from the sun *indirectly*—from "bottled sunshine" in some form or other, such as coal, wood, or animal food. The question why we should not trap the sunbeams and set them to work at once has occurred to others besides Ericsson. M. Mouchot, a French engineer, has made an engine that actually works by solar heat. But Ericsson is taking up the subject with more earnestness than his fellow experimenters; beginning his researches *ab ibnitio* by the construction of an elaborate culorimeter for measuring the available heat from the sun in various seasons and at various altitudes. This whole matter will form a treatise of some size by-and-bye: in the meantime Ericsson will communicate the leading materials to the English journal entitled *Engineering* (why do they not change this silly name now that he who gave it—Zeral Colburn—is no more?) The solar culorimetry, as yet accomplished, seems to show that there is a variation in the heat manifested under similar circumstances of solar elevation and apparent clearness of sky. Ericsson thinks that this may be due to invisible clouds of aqueous vapour intercepting variously the calorific recess; but he rather favours the idea that it is due to actual changes in the heat-emitting power of the sun.

With all due pomp and ceremony a monument to Kepler was lately inaugurated at the noble astronomer's birthplace, Weildiestadt in Swabia, a little town numbering only 2,000 inhabitants; conscious of its insignificance, but proud of the man to whom it gave birth, expressing both sentiments on the ceremonial day in flaunting banners, bearing the words "*Petite est la ville, mais grand est son enfant.*" Of course there was plenty of music and discoursing; at the end of this the monument was uncovered. It consists of a bronze statue of the astronomer, ten feet high, mounted on an elegant pedestal. The figure is in sitting posture, the left hand resting on a celestial globe and holding a parchment on which the symbolical ellipse is drawn. The right hand holds a compass, the face is turned towards the sky. Four niches in the pedestal contain statues, five feet high, of Mastlin—Kepler's mathematical master — Capernicus, Tycho-Brahe, and Bryg—the mechanic who helped in the construction of Kepler's instruments. Beneath, on the four sides of the pedestal are bas-reliefs. One, typifying *Celestial Physics*, represents Urania measuring space. A second, illustrating *Mathematics*, shews Kepler at seventeen, under his master, Mastlin, who is shewing him the Capernician system drawn on a plan, with other scholars around. A third, labelled *Astronomy*, shows Tycho-Brahe and Kepler debating upon the solar system in presence of the emperor Rodolph and Wallenstein, while, in the background, printers are working off the celebrated *Rudolphine Tables*. The fourth, signifying *Optics*, gives us Kepler and Byrg in the workshop at Prague busy upon the construction of a telescope. The whole work was designed by Kreling, director of the fine art School at Nuremburg. The bronze statues and bas-reliefs were cast and chased in the well known *ateliers* of MM. Lenz and Hérold of the same place. Altogether the monument seems to be a very creditable one. Would that we could popularise Newton with one as worthy.

A curious instance of "two people thinking the same thing," not quite at the same time, has just been brought to notice by an American chemist. In 1840 the famous Dalton read an essay to the Manchester Philosophical Society on the "Quantity of Acids, Bases, and Water in Salts" in which he propounded the general doctrine of solutions, and announced as a great discovery, quite new to him, that the addition of salt to water increased the weight of the fluid while the volume remained the same. His words were "The water and solid matter are the same in *bulk* as the water itself. The solid matter only adds to the weight. The solid matter would go into the pores of the water." Now the curious point is that Swedenborg in 1719—one hundred and nineteen years previously—had written and published these words:—"We have shewn that the mere particles of salt cannot at all *add* to the *bulk*, but only the *weight*, because they occupy the spans between the aqueous particles." The coincidence is very striking, and upon the strength of it, and a general similarity of remarks which we have not room to quote, Mr. Beswick, of New Jersey, U.S., claims that "the Swedish philosopher was the first to suggest, verify, publish, and place on record, in a work called 'Principles of Chemistry,' the date of whose publication is certain, the general doctrine of solutions." Science will not benefit much from knowledge of this fact—though it is interesting to be known.

We spoke last week of suggestions for coaxing the clouds to give us rain. All such are out of date now that we have got, in some parts at least, more water than is wanted. But as a contribution to the unwritten book of mad schemes we cannot help recording—if the only end of our pains is to excite a smile—the grand idea that has occurred to a French enthusiast who promulgates, in all seriousness, a proposal to send a blasting party to the Artic regions to blow up, with nitro-glycerine or dyramite, icebergs and ice-fields in such quantity as to cause the ice, descending into the Atlantic, to cool the sea and atmosphere to such an extent as to induce rainfall! This suggestion, appearing in a professedly good French scientific journal, will show the incongruous principles of continental editors who do not hesitate to insert such nonsense side by side with contributions of high character.

GOSSIP.

The Royal Italian Opera season closes to-day (Saturday).

Mr. John Stuart Mill is at work on a new edition of his "Logic."

Mr. Fechter is to take charge of one of the New York theatres this autumn.

Mr. J. C. Brough has just been appointed Librarian to the London Institution.

The Sussex Archæological Society will hold its annual meeting at Rye on Thursday, August 11.

Signor Bottesini, the Paganini of contrabassi, has produced a new concert overture at the Baden Baden concerts.

Another pupil of Madame Viardot, a Mdlle. Anna Bosso, has made a successful *début* at the Baden Baden concerts.

The *Athenæum* and other critical journals speak in high terms of praise of Mrs. Scott-Siddons as Pauline at the Haymarket.

The new volume of the Chandos Classics contains the Legendary Ballads of England and Scotland. It is carefully edited by J. G. Roberts.

An excellent Italian version of Charles Dickens's "The Cricket on the Hearth" has been written by Signora Grazia Mancini Pierantoni.

Mr. Halliwell is making progress with his "about ten folio volumes," which will illustrate the life of Shakespeare and the history of the Early English stage.

Dr. James Peck, who occupied a prominent position in the late New York Festival, is reputed to be one of the best conductors of oratorio and sacred music in the States.

Frank Leslie's New York Illustrated Paper declares that Red Bear, the Indian warrior, thinks the white squaws are very handsome, but they have too much war paint.

Mr. J. A. Dawson, an accomplished American pianist, who has recently made a very successful tour in the Southern States, where his playing has been greatly admired, has returned to New York.

The veteran composer Mercadante is to compose the Hymn which will be executed at the distribution of the prizes of the International Maritime Exhibition, to be held in the autumn, at Naples.

Favourable mention is made in the German papers of the baritone Caffieri, who sustains the part of Nelusko, and of Mdlle. Loffler, who is the Selika, in Meyerbeer's "Africane," performed at Wiesbaden.

Signor Augusto Pierantoni's work—"La Questione Anglo-Americana dell' Alabama"—which discusses various points of International Law with reference to the Alabama, has just been translated into English.

A French paper published at New Orleans recently contained the following announcement: "Charles Dickens, the great American romancer, died yesterday of apoplexy. He was the Walter Scott of America."

A theatre for the people is to be built at St. Petersburg, a Royal Commission having been entrusted with its construction. It is to accommodate 2,350 and the charges for admission are to range from sixpence upward.

The annual meeting of the Kent Archæological Society is fixed for the 3rd and 4th of August, at Sittingbourne. On the 4th there will be an excursion to the island of Sheppy, Minster Church, and Shurland Castle.

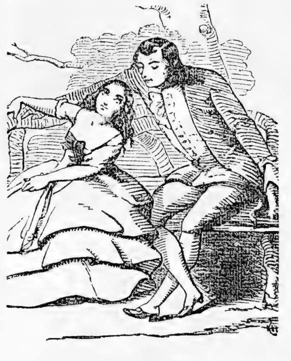
The Ipswich newspapers are unanimous in bearing testimony to the excellence of the portrait of Mr. James Allen Ransome, which appeared in the last impression of the *Illustrated Midland News*. It was engraved from a portrait by Mr. Robert Cade, of Ipswich.

A new journal, representing the Conservative interest in the Northern Division of Devonshire, called the *North Devon Herald*, has been started in Barnstaple. The first number is a very promising one. It is well edited, and the articles are ably written. The paper is edited by a gentleman who has been for many years connected with the Press in Birmingham. In the "poet's corner" of the first number appears a pretty sketchy poem, "In Exeter," by Dr. Langford, of Birmingham.

Some American *entrepreneur* wrote the other day to Mr. Spurgeon to ask him to go to America and lecture. His reply was characteristic:—"Gentlemen,—I am much obliged by your very courteous letter, but you are under a mistake. I am not a lecturer. I now and then give a lecture for some good object, but I do not do it well, and, moreover, have no ambition in that line. I am very glad to preach, but not if there is any charge at the door. Moreover, I have no kind of idea of visiting the States."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

It is intended to hold, at Dresden, from the 15th of August to the 15th of October next, an exhibition of the works of the great painter, Hans Holbein. The committee appointed to carry out this object trust that possessors of original works by this master—and it is well known that there are many such in England—will contribute to the exhibition, in order that it may be rendered as complete as possible.

WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS BEST.



As my wife sat watching one day
An Italian man with a monkey,
A cart came by with a broth of a boy,
Who was driving a stout little donkey.
To my wife I then spoke by way of a joke,
"There's a relation of yours in that carriage!"
To which she replied, as the donkey she spied,
"Ah! yes—a relation by marriage!"

NEW PATENTS.

(Contributed by Messrs. Payne and Talbot, 1, Bennett's-hill, and 56, Ann-street, Birmingham.)

Improvements in the construction of watches. F. Rofig, Havre, France.

Improvements in buttons and clasps for linen and other garments, likewise applicable for the fixture of any article of toilette to human apparel. J. Reichel, Berlin, Prussia.

Improvements in chaff-cutters. F. C. Southwell, Rugeley, Staffordshire.

Improvements in raising gigs used in the process of raising the nap of woollen cloth or other fabrics. J. Dawson and T. C. Fawcett, Leeds.

Improvements in the preparation of animal charcoal for use in treating saccharine solutions. W. T. Waite, Southampton.

Improvements in filtering saccharine solutions and other liquids, and in mean or apparatus employed therein. W. T. Waite, Southampton.

Improvements in the preparation of fermentable saccharine matters. W. Garton, Southampton.

Improvements in ornamenting woven and felted fabrics, and in apparatus employed therein. J. W. Eyres and J. Longbottom, Leeds.

Improvements in ship's anchors. W. Warren, Jersey, Channel Islands.

Improvements in apparatus and mechanical means for excavating, filling-in, transporting, and discharging grain, seeds, and other materiais. J. Holdsworth, Kingston-upon-Hull.

Improvements in braking or retarding railway trains, and in the apparatus or means employed therefor. R. H. Durie, Trannent, Haddington, N.B.

An improved application for facilitating the working of bicycles and tricycles. A. S. Campbell, Hampstead, Middlesex.

Improvements in refrigerating for the manufacture of ice and other purposes. H. J. West, Southwark, Surrey.

An improved liquid meter. A. Werkmeister, Berlin, Prussia.

Improvements in mortising machines. F. W. R. Hedges, Bow, Middlesex.

A new or improved riddle, specially adapted for cleansing and assorting potatoes. J. Davenport, sen., Pittenweem, Fifeshire, N.B.

Improvements in breech-loading firearms. J. Thomas, Birmingham.

Improvements in treating iron ores, and in the furnaces or ovens employed for such purpose. A. le Brum-virloy, Paris.

Improvements in the manufacture of chairs and other seats. T. J. Smith, London. (A communication from W. Walcker, Paris.)

Improvements in bicycles. S. W. Thomas, Southsea, Sussex.

Improvements in preparing and obtaining colouring matters. C. Bardy, Paris.

An improved machine or apparatus for clipping horses or other animals. J. Flear, Gayton, Herefordshire.

Improvements in apparatus for preparing and spinning flax, tow, wool, and other similar fibrous substances. T. Whitehead and H. W. Whitehead, Leeds.

Improvements in boiler fittings. W. H. Bailey, Salford, Lancashire.

Improvements in railway carriage wheels. A. M. Clarke, London. (A communication from H. W. Moore, New York, U.S., and F. Bloodgood, C. B. Wood and F. Wood, New York, U.S.)

Improvements in the construction of houses and other buildings or structures. F. Walton, Staines, Middlesex.

Improvements in machinery for making horseshoe nails. A. M Clarke, London. (A communication from D. Dodge, New York, U.S.)

An improved pressing machine for the use of tailors and others. J. Summersfield and J. G. Sanderson, Manchester.

The application of a new material to the production of illuminating oils and solid hydro-carbono, suitable for the manufacture of candles and for other purposes. F. Field, Lambeth, Surrey, and G. Liemssen, London.

Improvements in apparatus for signalling between passengers, guards, and drivers of trains. J. A. Gardner, Bristol, Somersetshire.

Improvements in ventilating mines. J. W. Horsfall, London.

(*Patents upon which the £50 Stamp Duty has been paid*).

Improvements in scrapers for cleaning boiler tubes. J. Mannock, Oldham.

Improvements in the lateral action or induction of fluids, and in the apparatus or mechanism employed therefor. A. Morton, Glasgow, N.B.

Improvements in looms for weaving. J. J. Harrison and E. Harrison, Manchester.

Improvements in letter-press and lithographic printing machinery. A. Paton, Leeds.

An apparatus for securing lamps for railway and other carriages. W. Howes and W. Burley, Birmingham.

Improvements in ploughs. T. Pierie, Aberdeen, N.B.

Improvements in apparatus for the manufacture of artificial fuel, which apparatus may also be employed for other purposes. H. Flecther, Liverpool.

Improvements in apparatus for drawing or raising beer and other malt or spirituous liquors to a higher level than that of the cask or other vessel in which they are kept. J. Fleming, Glasgow, N.B.

Improvements in machinery or apparatus for actuating and locking railway points and signals. J. Edwards, Westminster.

Improvements in the construction of locking apparatus for governing the movement of railway points and signals, and in the mode or method of applying, combining, and actuating such apparatus. J. Saxby, Kilburn.

A new or improved engraving machine. W. Snell, Westminster. (A communication from J. C. Guerrant and B. J. Field, Rockingham, North Carolina, U.S.)

Improvements in apparatus for drying grain, seeds, malt, spent hops, brewers' and distillers' grains, hops, wool, rags, and other materials. J. L. Mortou, London.

ROSSETER'S HAIR RESTORER is the only preparation which can be confidently relied upon for restoring grey hair to its original colour. It assists nature in supplying the colouring properties which may have become deficient through age or disease. Price 3s. 6d. per bottle. [628

GENTLEMEN, desirous of having their Linens dressed to perfection, should supply their Laundresses with the "GLENFIELD STARCH," which imparts a brilliancy and elasticity gratifying alike to the senses of sight and touch. [710

PURE WATER.—ALFRED BIRD, Experimental Chemist, begs to announce that he has perfected his new CARBON FILTER, price 7s. 6d. each, which he guarantees shall deliver 60 gallons of the purest water daily.—To be seen in action at 69, Wercester Street, Birmingham. [930

The Largest and Best 6d. and 1s. Bottle of Pomade in the trade; has had an immense sale for eighteen years. Choice Hair Washes, from 1s. 6d. Lime Cream, from 1s. Genuine and delightfully perfumed Lime Juice and Glycerine, from 1s. to 6s. A very large assortment of Hair Tooth, Nail, Hat, and Cloth Brushes, by best makers, from 1s. Dressing Combs in *Tortoiseshell, Bone, Ivory, Horn,* and *Vulcanite*, from 6d. A splendid variety of fancy Back Combs, from 1s. to 50s. Large selection of Fans from 6d. to 60s., including the newest shapes and patterns. The largest stock of Toilet Requisites and Fancy Goods in the Midland Counties, selected from the best houses of Paris and London, at STEELE'S, HAIR CUTTER and ARTIST in HAIR, Opposite the Railway Station, New Street, Birmingham. [591

COURT AND FASHIONABLE GOSSIP.

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales will embark at the end of the present week for Denmark, where he will join the Princess and return with her Royal Highness to England.

The Queen held a council on Tuesday at which were present the Earl De Grey and Ripon, the Earl of Kimberly, Viscount Sydney, and Lord Dufferin and Clandeboye.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Colonel in Chief of the Rifle Brigade (the Prince Consort's Own), presided at the annual dinner of the Brigade, on Monday evening, at Willis's Rooms, King-street, St. James's.

The Prince and Princess Christian were to have left Windsor last week for the Continent, but owing to the disturbed state of affairs they did not go, although the saloon carriages for the journey were in readiness at the railway station.

The Crocodile arrived at Portsmouth, on Tuesday from Quebec, with Prince Arthur on board His Royal Highness immediately proceeded to Osborne on board her Majesty's yacht Alberta, and was met at the Trinity Pier, East Cowes, by the Queen and the Princesses Louise and Beatrice.

Prince Arthur, having returned from Canada, will permently rejoin the garrison at Woolwich. The house of the commandant of Royal Marines, Rush-grove, Woolwich, just vacated by Sir Edward Warde, K.C.B., is being fitted up as the Prince's official quarters.

THE NEW VICE-WARDEN OF STANNARIES COURT.—The Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, has conferred the Vice-Wardenship of the Stannaries Court on Mr. Herbert Fisher, keeper of the Privy Seal in his Royal Highness's Household. Mr. Fisher was formerly connected with the western circuit, and also private tutor to the Prince, but he withdrew from the circuit several years ago.

His Excellency the Austrian Ambassador and Countess Apponyi entertained at dinner, on Monday evening, in Belgravia-square, his Excellency the Russian Ambassador and Baroness Brunnow, his Excellency the Danish Minister and Madame Bulow, his Excellency the Bavarian Minister, Maria, Marchioness of Ailesbury, the Earl and Countess Granville, General Lord Strathnairn, Count Nesselrode, Count Pahlen, Count and Countess Bela Szechenyi, Countess Malvina Erdody, Count Palffy, and Count Wolkenstein.

His Excellency the North German Ambassador and the Countess Bernstorff gave a farewell dinner on Saturday to the Russian Ambassador and the Baroness Brunnow at the Embassy on Carlton-house-terrace. Among the guests invited were his Excellency the Danish Minister and the Baroness Bulow, his Excellency the Italian Minister, Lord Brabazon, Mr. and Mrs. William Lowther, Count Wolkenstein, Count Steenbock, Prince Leichtenstein, Count Pahlen, Count d'Yrsch, &c.

BIRTHS.

BELMORE.—On the 5th May, at Government House, Sydney, N.S.W., the Countess of Belmore, of a son.

MILTON.—On the 14th inst., at 19, Grosvenor-square, Vicountess Milton, of a daughter.

COURTENAY.—On the 14th inst., at 85, Belgrave-road, the Lady Evelyn Courtenay, of a son.

FRANKLIN.—On the 14th inst., the wife of George Carey Franklin, Coventry, of a daughter.

LILLEY.—On the 14th inst., at Forest Grange, near Leicester, the wife of Dr. Lilley, of a daughter.

NORTHWICK.—On the 15th inst., at 7, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, Lady Northwick, of a daughter.

WOOD.—On the 17th inst, at 32, Lowndes-square, the Lady Agnes Wood, of a son.

MAGDALA.—On the 18th inst, at Bryngwyn, Montgomeryshire, Lady Napier of Magdala, of a daughter

HARDING.—On the 15th inst, at Baraset, near Stratford-upon-Avon, the wife of William Fielding Harding, Esq., J.P., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

HIGGINSON—GRIFFITHS.—On the 14th inst., at St. Mary's Church, Haggerston, by the Rev. S. S. Browne, Charles Higginson, late of Leicester, to Mary Ann, widow of the late Wm. Griffiths, Esq., and eldest daughter of Wm. Smith, Esq., Witney, Oxon.

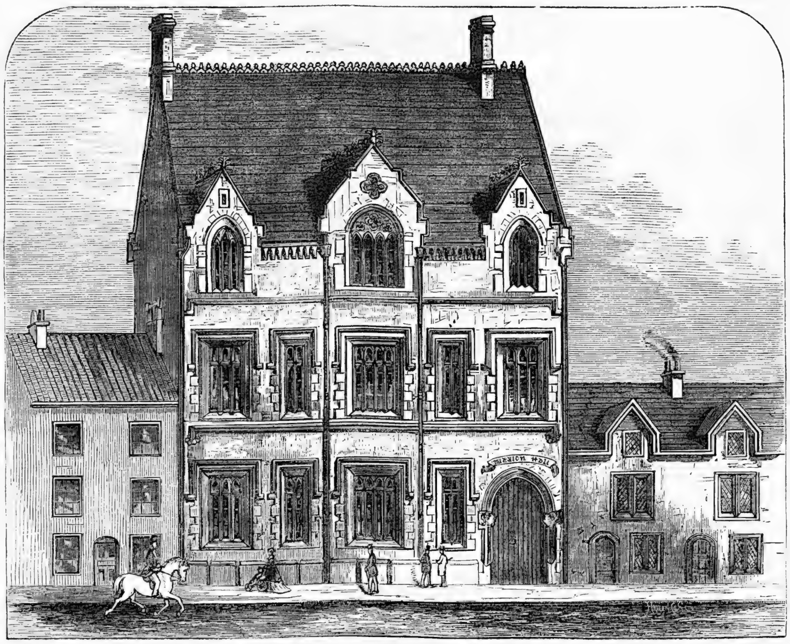
EYRE—HUNT.—On the 14th inst., at West Dean, near Salisbury, by the Rev. William Cornish Hunt, brother of the bride, assisted by the Rev. William Streynsham Master, rector, the Rev. William Leigh Williamson Eyre, son of the late Rev. William Thomas Eyre, vicar of Padbury and Hillesden, Bucks, to Caroline Emma, daughter of the late Rev. T. Hunt, rector of West Felton, Salop.

DICKENS A PICKWICKIAN.—At the time when *Pickwick* appeared, antiquarian pursuits were despised by the general public, and the famous excursions to Cobham, where the inscribed stone was discovered, was written to ridicule them. Five and twenty years after, however, archæology found itself raised into the dignity of a science, and numbering among its votaries no less a person than the author of *Pickwick* himself. And at Cobham too! This was in the year 1864, when the Archæological Institute met at Rochester. Dickens was on the Committee, and an excursion, we find, was organised to Cobham. Whether another stone with BILL STUMPS † HIS MARK was discovered on the occasion we do not know; but it must have been very agreeable to the ladies and gentlemen present to have among them, whilst one of the party was deciphering a puzzling inscription, the author of the burlesque description of a scene which could not fail to recal to all who had read *Pickwick* that then before them.—*Court Circular.*

HOT SUMMERS.

From the records kept at Nuremberg, in Bavaria, have been collected the following interesting facts:—In 1132 the earth cracked by reason of the heat, the wells and streams in Alsace were dried up, and the bed of the river Rhine was dry. In 1152 the heat was so great that sand exposed to the sun's rays became hot enough to cook eggs. In 1160, great numbers of soldiers in the campaign against Bela died from the heat. In 1276 and 1277, crops of hay and oats failed completely. In 1303 and 1304, a man could have crossed, dry-shod, over the rivers Seine, Loire, Rhine, and Danube. In 1393 and 1394, a multitude of animals perished by the heat, which was so great that the harvest dried up. In 1440 the heat was extraordinary. In 1538, 1539, 1540, and 1541, all the rivers were nearly dried up. In 1556 there was a great drouth, which extended over nearly the whole of Europe. In 1615 and 1616, there was, in Italy, France, and the Netherlands, an overpowering heat. In 1648 there were fifty-eight consecutive days of extreme heat. 1678 was very hot, as were also the first three years of the eighteenth century. In 1718 it did not rain from April until October. The growing grain was burnt, the rivers dried up, the theatres (but wherefore is not stated) were closed by command of the authorities. The thermometer showed 36° Reaumer—equivalent to 113° Fahrenheit. In irrigated gardens the fruit trees bloomed twice. In 1723 and 1724, there was great heat. The summer of 1746 was hot and dry, the growing grain being calcined. It did not rain for months. 1748, 1754, 1760, 1767, 1778, and 1788 were years in which the summers were extremely hot. In the famous comet year—1811—the summer was warm, and the wine produced that season was very precious. In 1818, the theatres had to be closed on account of the heat, the highest temperature being 35° Reaumer, or 112° Fahrenheit. During the three days of the revolution of July, in 1830, the thermometer stood at 36° Centigrade—about 97° Fahrenheit. In 1832, during the uprising of the 5th and 6th of July, the temperature was about the same.

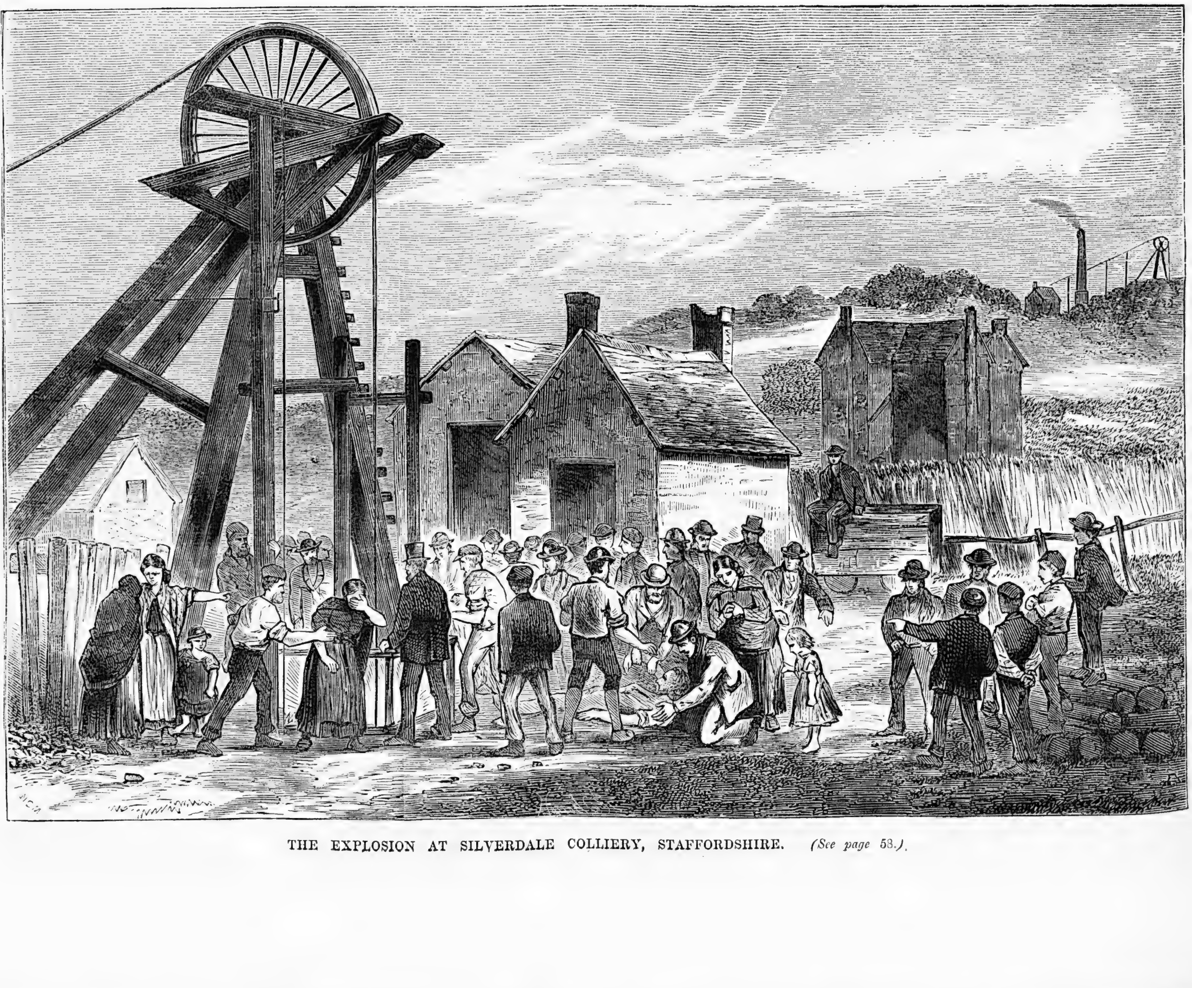
Senator Maton of Minnesota is dead.



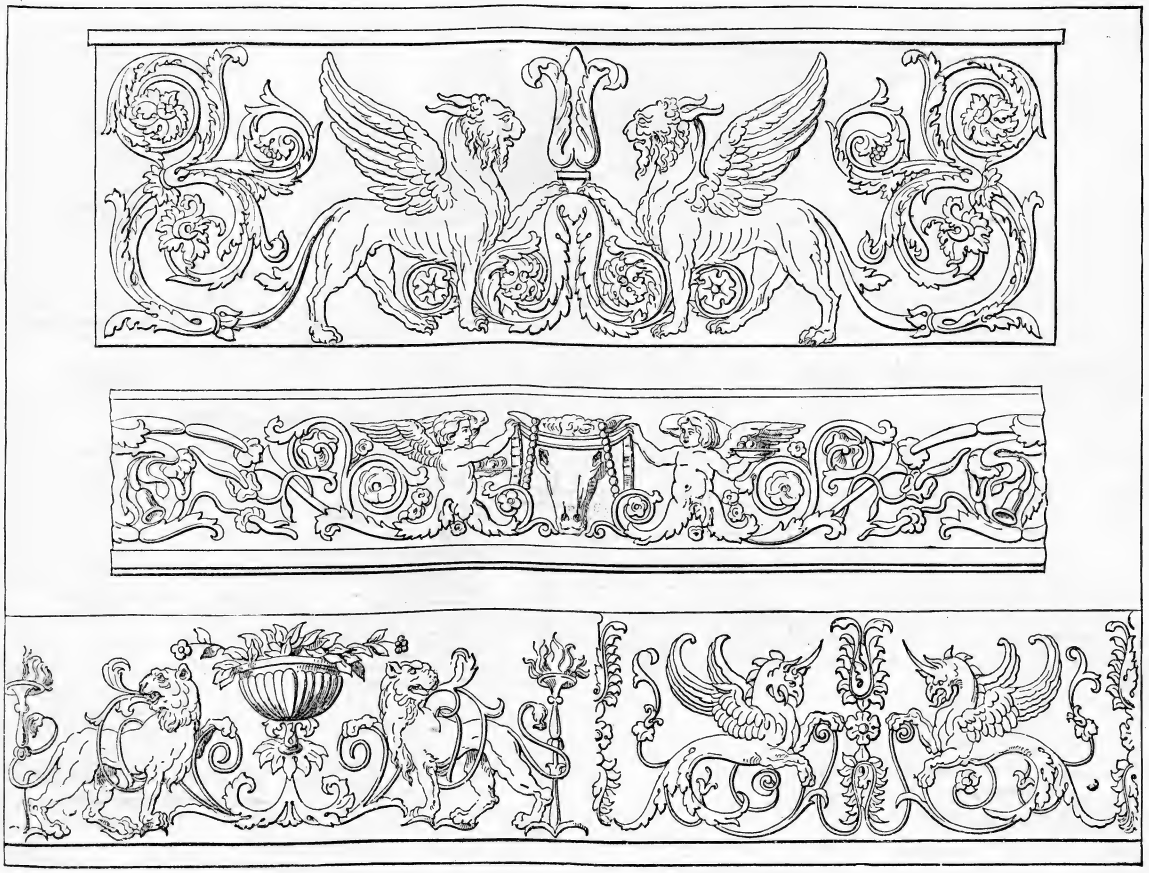
MISSION HALL, WORCESTER.

A REVIEW OF PRUSSIAN TROOPS.

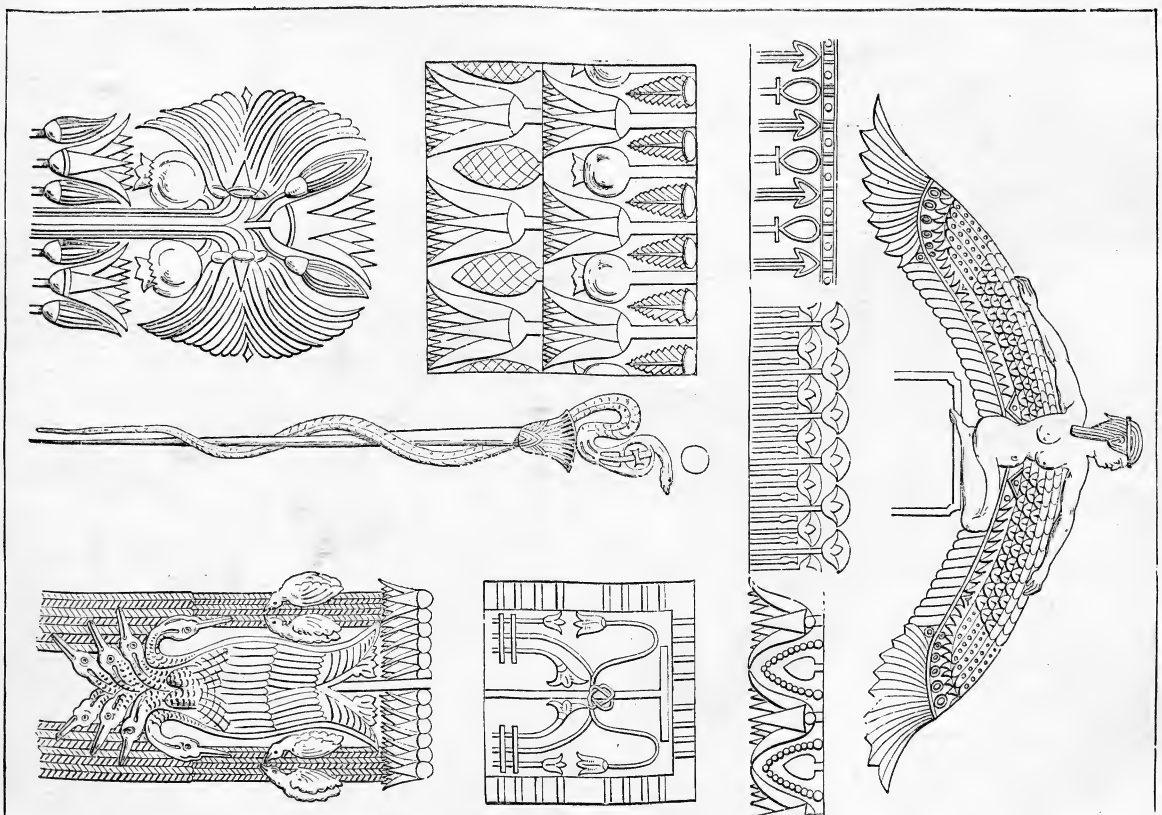
The absorbing interest excited by the declaration of war has induced us to republish this week, as a gratis supplement, the large engraving representing a Review of Prussian troops at Bremen, which appeared in No. 10 of the *Illustrated Midland News*, last November. To those of our readers who subscribed for our early numbers this will be simply the presentation of a duplicate copy of an engraving which appeared in our first volume, while the picture will be fresh to the thousands who have joined the ranks of our readers since November. The review took place just a year ago, and since then no material change has taken place in the force, the arms, or the accoutrements of the Prussian army. A review to-day at Bremen could hardly be different in any important particular from that of which our artist has given the very stirring sketch forming our extra supplement this week, except, perhaps, in the deadly earnestness with which these Teutonic warriors will go through their exercises in view of an immediate encounter with the soldiers of France. There can be no doubt that the Prussian army, like the French, is in a state of the most perfect discipline. Since the battle of Sadowa Count Von Bismarck, as well as Napoleon, has contemplated the possibility of a war breaking out at almost any moment between the two countries, and both have taken care to be well prepared. We fear our next picture of Prussians in the field will represent a scene of terrible slaughter, and not a mock battle with humourous incidents in the shape of disconcerted spectators in the foreground. We have made special arrangements for being represented at the seat of war, and shall give frequent pictures illustrating the events of the struggle and the progress of hostilities.



THE EXPLOSION AT SILVERDALE COLLIERY, STAFFORDSHIRE. *(See page 53.)*



ROMAN.



EGYPTIAN.

THE A. B. C. OF ORNAMENTAL DESIGN.—(*See page 58*).—*To* BE CONTINUED.

BIRMINGHAM TRIENNIAL MUSICAL FESTIVAL in aid of the Funds of the General Hospital (30th Celebration), on the 30th and 31st of August and 1st and 2nd of September, 1870.

PRESIDENT—The Right Hon. the Earl of BRADFORD.

Principal Vocalists—Mademoiselle Titiens, Madame Lemmens-Sherrington, Miss Edith Wynne and Mademoiselle Ilma di Murska, Madame Patey and Mademoiselle Drasdil. Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. Vernon Rigby, and Mr. W. H. Cummings, Mr. Santley and Signor Foli.

Solo Pianoforte, Madame Arabella Goddard. Solo Violin, M. Sainton. Organist, Mr. Stimpson.

Conductor, Sir Michael Costa.

OUTLINE OF THE PERFORMANCES.

TUESDAY MORNING.—Elijah, Mendelssohn.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.—Naaman, Costa.

THURSDAY MORNING.—Messiah, Handel.

FRIDAY MORNING.—St. Peter (a new Oratorio), Benedict (composed expressly for the Festival); Requiem, Mozart.

TUESDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Paradise and the Peri*), J. F. Barnett (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, comprising Mendelssohn's Concerto in G Minor, and Overtures Frcischutz and Zampa.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Instrumental Work, A. S. Sullivan (composed expressly for the Festival; Choral Ode (ditto), Dr. Stewart. Second Part will consist entirely of selections from the works of Beethoven.

THURSDAY EVENING.—A Miscellaneous Concert, comprising Cantata (*Naia and Damayanti*) Dr. F. Hillier (composed expressly for the Festival); Miscellaneous Selection, including Kreutzer Sonata and Overture Guillaume Tell.

FRIDAY EVENING.—Samson, Handel.

Programmes of the Performances will be forwarded by post on application to the undersigned, at the Offices of the Festival Committee, Ann Street, Birmingham, on and after the 28th inst.

By order.
HOWARD S. SMITH,
773] *Secretary to the Festival Committee.*

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Passengers are allowed to break the journey at Furness Abbey, on condition that they resume it within three days.

1870. BY ORDER.
[906

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SATURDAY TO MONDAY AT THE SEA SIDE.
CHEAP EXCURSIONS TO
GRIMSBY AND CLEETHORPES.

EVERY SATURDAY until OCTOBER 29, 1870, CHEAP EXCURSION TICKETS will be issued from the undermentioned Stations to GRIMSBY and CLEETHORPES by any of the Ordinary Trains available for returning by any Train up to the following Monday Evening.

STATIONS.	FARES. 1st Class. s.	d.	Cov. Car. s.	d.
Birmingham	20	0	10	0
Tamworth	17	0	8	6
Burton	15	0	7	6
Derby	12	0	6	0
Leicester	15	0	7	6
Loughboro'	14	0	7	0
Mansfield	12	0	6	0
Nottingham	10	0	5	0
Newark	10	0	5	0

Children under Three Years of Age, Free; above Three and under Twelve, Half-fares.

The Tickets will not be recognised for the Return Journey unless they have been presented and Stamped at the Booking Office at Cleethorpes or Grimsby on the Day of Return.

JAMES ALLPORT, *General Manager.*
Derby, 1870. [907

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AT
MATLOCK.
EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL OCTOBER 29th, 1870.

RETURN TICKETS at the following Low Fares, will be issued from the undermentioned Stations to MATLOCK BATH by any of the Ordinary Trains on Saturday, available for return by any Train up to the following Monday Evening.

STATIONS.	FARES. 1st Class. s.	d.	2nd Class. s.	d.
Leicester	10	6	8	0
Rugby, Nuneaton	12	6	10	0
Hinckley	11	6	9	6
Loughborough	7	6	5	6
Nottingham	6	0	4	6
Newark	9	0	7	0
Lincoln	10	6	8	0
Birmingham	10	6	8	0
Burton	6	0	4	6
Derby	4	0	3	0
Chesterfield	5	0	4	0
Sheffield	8	0	6	0
Rotherham	8	0	6	0
Masboro'	8	0	6	0

JAMES ALLPORT, *General Manager.*
Derby, 1870. [908

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For the Parishes of Bricklehampton, Great Comberton, and Elmley Castle.

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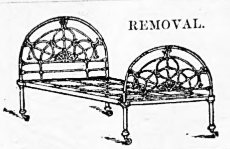

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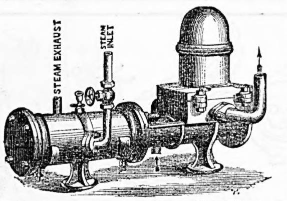

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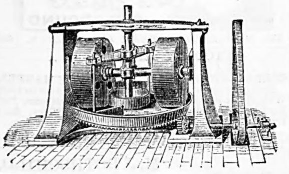

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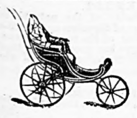

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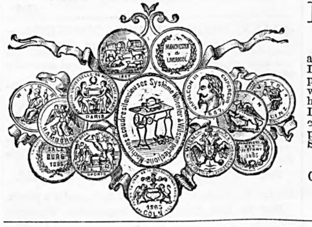
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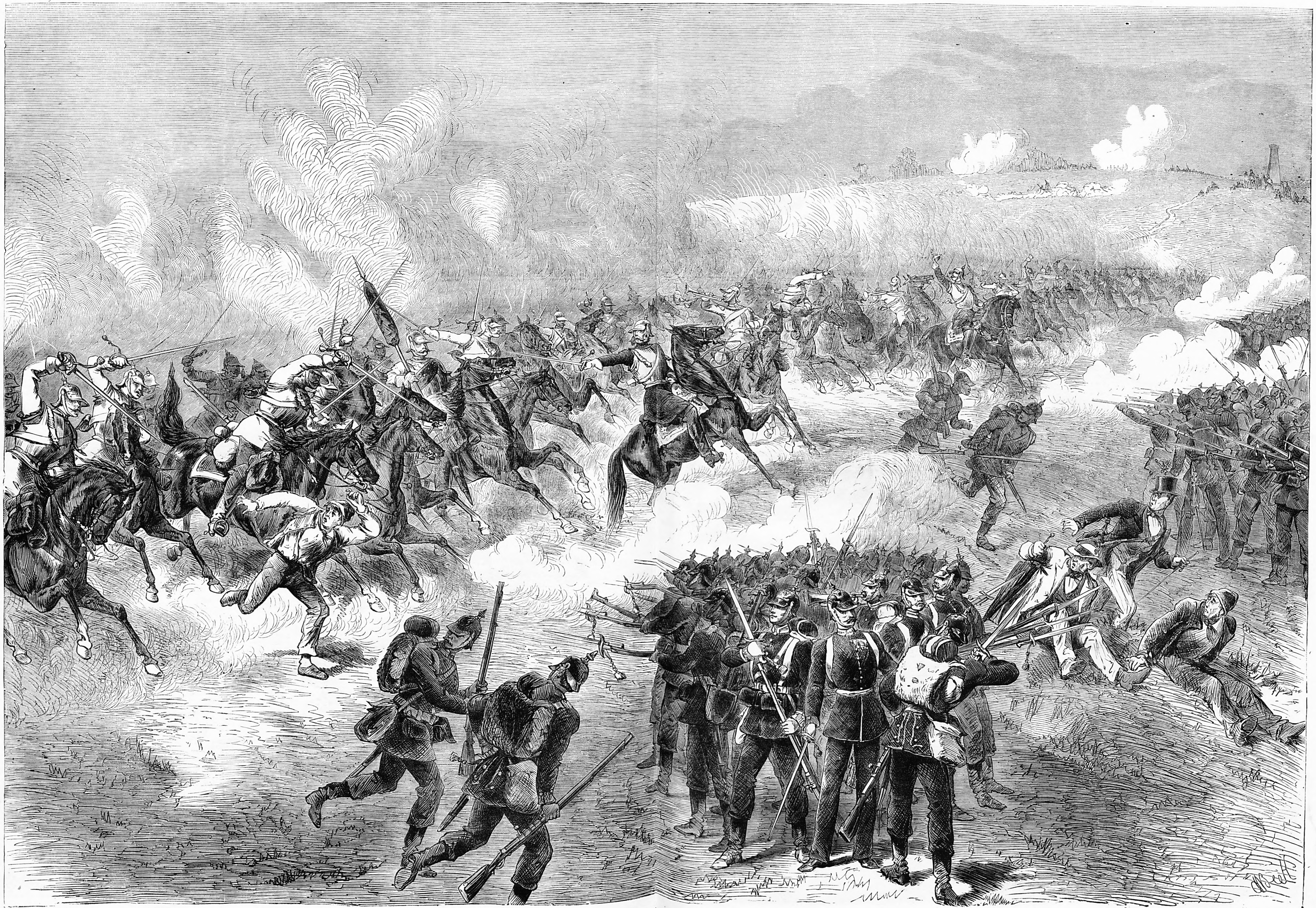

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